

# SONSHINE

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visit our website at <http://www7.brinkster.com/ssemmaus>

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### FROM OUR LAY DIRECTOR

I want to open by thanking all of the people who had a hand in making the Tenth Anniversary Gathering a success. Many people worked long and hard on the event and I am especially thankful. It provided a wonderful opportunity for us to reunite with people that we hadn't seen in many years - perhaps since our original walks. We had a wonderful time sharing, singing eating and worshipping. THANKS ALL !!!

The walks are upon us (and by the time that this newsletter reaches you, the men's walk may already have been). It was unfortunate that we had to postpone the walks from last spring but, for whatever reason, it was not in God's plan. He has groomed His teams for this season and has richly blessed the pilgrims with wonderful teams. Thank all of you who gave up your time to make these walks a success.

We originally had a Day of Deeper Understanding (DDU) planned for our December gathering, but this has been moved to our January gathering. The timing was too close to Christmas and it was felt that it would not be well attended because of all of the other events happening during that time. The schedule for next year is not yet set and the time and location will be sent out later. If you or someone that you sponsored has not attended a DDU, you should make every effort to attend.

It's time now to be thinking about the spring walks. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of these teams. For the last several years, the team selection committee has been having to scramble and make calls to fill out the team - both laity and clergy. If you have never teamed before, you **WILL BE BLESSED** by teaming, possibly even more than you were on your walk. God will use the gifts and talents that He has given you and you will be amazed by what He will do through you. Maybe some of you, like me, tend to put off things until the last minute and will send in the application late. Maybe you are waiting to be asked, assuming that if you are needed, someone will call you and ask. Or maybe you feel that you are not needed or that someone else might serve better. What ever the reason, please prayerfully consider the opportunity. The cut off date for team applications is January 1, 2004.

*Thanks for all of the  
support over the  
past year!*

*Jeff Carty*

Lay Director

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](mailto:Predestin8@aol.com)

Please submit articles early to ensure inclusion in upcoming issues!

THIS MONTH'S INTERVIEW IS WITH **MARY DEAL, SONSHINE EMMAUS WALK #32**. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING INTERVIEWED OR HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS COLUMN, CONTACT BOBBY GIBSON AT 550-0813 OR BY E-MAIL AT [IBEPRAYZN@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:IBEPRAYZN@HOTMAIL.COM)



## Do You Know...?

**Name:** Mary Deal

**Home Church:** First Commonwealth Church

**Spouse:** Mark Deal

**Children and ages:** Ashley, 16

**Employment:** Full-time Triage RN at Hospice of Central Virginia  
Part-time staff RN at Harbour Pointe Family Practice

**Hobbies/Pastimes:** Swimming and resting on the beach, puttering with my plants, reading (especially Christian fiction), burning candles

### INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WALK:

**Community and Walk #:** Sonshine Emmaus #32

**Date:** November 2001

**Theme:** "Lord, I Offer My Life to You"

**Table Name:** Footprints

### INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FOURTH DAY:

**Are you active in a Reunion Group?** Lakeside UMC

**Do you attend the Gathering?** YES

**Have you served on the Board or served as an officer in the Community?** NO

**Have you sponsored any pilgrims?** YES (My first was my Husband!)

**Have you served on a Team?** YES...on walks #33 and #35

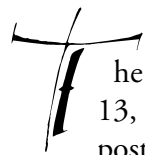
**What ministry are you involved with for Jesus Christ (in and/or outside of the local church)?**

I volunteer as a staff nurse at our church's non-profit clinic for those in our area without insurance.

I voice mail daily devotions from the Upper Room to 13 employees at Hospice. And I just bought new crayons for placemats!

**What does the Walk to Emmaus Ministry mean for you?** I can see myself at certain times of my life as one of those men that was walking to Emmaus. I had heard the Word and have it in my heart but am just walking at times and not recognizing the path. then I feel Jesus' hand holding mine and walking with me and I realize that he was/is there with me all the time. Emmaus to me is my walk of faith--knowing our Lord is with me each day, hour, and minute.

**What has your walk done for you? Has it made a difference for you? If so, how?** What can I say? I needed my cup re-filled and, boy, was it overflowing! I still smile because at that time I just needed to rest in the Lord and feel His love. Now, I have a new community of friends and another outlet to serve others, fellowship and witness. It is so cool doing God's business with my emmaus brothers and sisters!



The SonShine Emmaus community celebrated their 10th year reunion on Saturday, September 13, 2003, at Providence United Methodist Church in New Kent. Banners, pictures, and posters were on display throughout the church showing the history of our community.

The afternoon started out by spending time with old and new friends. Bob Cartwright then blessed the food and we continued visiting with one another. We moved in the sanctuary where we celebrated in worship. Our community Lay Director, Jeff Carty, was the master of ceremonies for the day. The music was performed by "Sing Out South" whose ages range from elementary school to adult. We were entertained with songs like Amazing Grace to Jeremiah Was a Bull Frog to Shout to the Lord. Devotions were done by Chris White and Kirby Miller. Liz King enlightened us with the history of SonShine. We were blessed with two fourth day speakers - Brian Brown and Carol Bookwalter. Brian and Carol both shared their Walk to Emmaus and how it affected their faith journeys. Our communion meditation was led by David Torrence and assisted by Mark Peters.

I would like to extend a very special thanks to the committee for organizing this reunion. The members are Lois Miller, Co-Chair Kirby Miller, Joan Stewart, Bill Giese and John Wermuth. An extra special thanks to Jeannie Wermuth and members from the band for taking care of our little children in the nursery. Also, thanks to Ken Brannan for bringing the "Emmaus Store" to our gathering and to the folks from Providence who helped set up and clean up. Everyone who attended the 10th year reunion had a wonderful time. Let us look forward to celebrating the Walk to Emmaus in our SonShine Community in coming years.

## *Vicky White*



*It's time for the  
Sonshine Emmaus*

# FALL WALKS!

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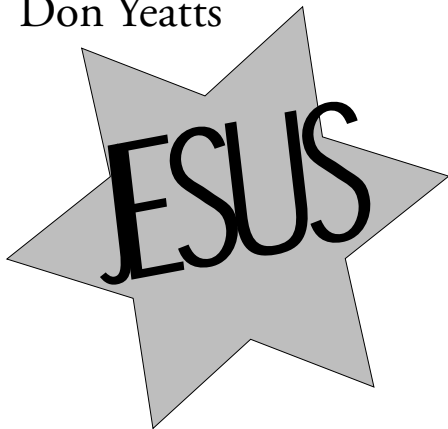
## Sonshine Emmaus Pilgrims # 36 *"Show Me Your Ways"*

### **Pilgrims:**

Booley Hill  
Bill Hinkle  
Glenn Hughes  
Winston Jones  
Jeff Althoff  
Frank Bahen  
John Brennan  
Mac Canada  
David Cox  
Al Hall  
Ted Koss  
Bobby Lawson  
Tracy Taliaferro  
Don Yeatts

### **Team:**

Gene Mims  
Bobby Gibson  
Mark Peters  
Henry Van Gils  
Bill Giese  
Tom Verbeke  
John Wermuth  
Lea Hume  
Mark Deal  
Paul Ogburn  
Jim Sims  
Tom Davis  
Chris White  
David Ogburn  
Jim Murphree  
Tom Slayton  
Reggie Johnson  
O J Mallory  
Tony Western



### *SonShine*

*Emmaus #37  
Women's Team*

*"On the Wings  
of a Dove"*

*Brenda Atkins  
Carol Bookwalter  
Sheri Coker  
Valerie Cooney  
Cathy Davis  
Mary Davis  
Melinda Davis  
Jeannie Garris  
Dina Giese  
Debbie Gillis  
Susan Hammond  
Bruce Lake  
Sharon Mallory  
Kay Mims  
Angie Perkins  
Polly Rowan  
Kathi Sanford  
Martha Sherrod  
Charlene Tyler  
Ann Via  
Vicki Weiss  
Deborah Western  
Vicky White*

## SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF 2003

Nov 13-16		Abbey	Women's Weekend
Nov 13	6:30	Abbey	Sponsor's Hour
Nov 15	7:00	Abbey	Gathering /Candlelight
Nov 16	4:00	Abbey	Closing
Dec 20	6:00	Lakeside UMC	Board Meeting
	6:30	Lakeside UMC	Gathering

### *SonShine Needs You*

DO WE ALWAYS RECOGNIZE JESUS when we pass Him in the street? Do we always recognize and respond to an opportunity to serve in His name? Do we invite Him into our everyday conversations? Likewise, do we always hear God's voice? Do we always recognize and respond to His call? How many of us can look back on our lives and answer "yes" to all or even most of these questions? How many of us can look at our lives today, right this minute, and answer "yes" to these same questions?

When we walked on "The Road to Emmaus"; the first talk challenged us to take an honest look at our priorities. From that first moment on, each talk and event that took place informed and challenged us to reprioritize, recognize, and better respond to God, to Christ, and to the world we have been sent into by "the Great Commission".

When I took my walk, God humbled and broke me. He opened me up and began reshaping my life. He allowed me to look back and see the missed opportunities in my life. This is an ongoing process because I am not perfect; I am human and have trouble keeping my priorities in focus. 1. I have a beautiful family I love to spend time with. 2. I have a church I willingly serve. 3. I have a business to run. 4. Finally, I have myself, and I require high maintenance (if you don't believe me, just ask my wife Jeannie). All of this takes time and a little piece of me. There never seems to be enough to go around. That is why I can say these words to you; "I know it is hard to find time". Oh yeah, I forgot about Emmaus; 5. Another piece of my time. I have had the honor and privilege to serve the SonShine Community as a board member, committee member, and as a team member. I love what God has blessed me with through this Community and the Emmaus program. I believe that what it has done for me, it can do for others. That is why I feel it is a sin to not take this commission seriously by doing all we can, using any means God

*(continued next page)*

has provided to achieve this commission.

God sent Christ, His Son, into this world for a face-to-face confrontation with sin, and he won. Christ “Commissioned” us, His brothers and sisters, to go into the same world and confront sin. Christ walked with each one of us on our “Road to Emmaus”. He was with us then and he is with us now. He hasn’t set us up to fail. He has given us Armor, weapons, and the Spirit so we will triumph.

Rom 6:11-18... Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against

the authorities, against the world and against the heavenly realms. Put on the armor of God, so that you may be able to stand firm then, with every-stand firm then, with around your waist, righteousness in place, with the readiness that peace. In addition to of faith, with which flaming arrows of the salvation and the

***Our community is not about the number of members we have or even the number of Walks we have.***

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***Our community is about the number of times we say “YES” to God’s calling.***

the powers of this dark spiritual forces of evil in Therefore put on the full when the day of evil comes, stand your ground, and after thing, to stand.

the belt of truth buckled with the breastplate of and with your feet fitted comes from the gospel of all this, take up the shield you can extinguish all the evil one. Take the helmet of sword of the Spirit, which is

the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Do any of you believe He gave us all of this so we would fail? Well, my brothers and sisters in Christ, we are failing; at least when it comes to our community. I know that, to some of you, these words are like “*preaching to the choir*”. To you I say, stay faithful and continue to be blessed by the efforts you put forth in Christ. Now, to anyone reading this who has hesitated, to anyone who has not participated in acting on Christ’s Commission within our community, I offer this admonishing. SonShine community is failing, and it is failing because of you or a lack of you!

Our community is not about the number of members we have or even the number of Walks we have. Our community is about the number of times we say “yes” to God’s calling. It is about the number of times we, as a Body of Christ, work together fulfilling Christ’s Commission. It is about the number of times we overcome the barriers and excuses Satan supplies us with or places in our way. Yes, we are failing as a community when we can’t find 20 Christians who want to deepen their relationship with our Lord by attending a Walk to Emmaus. That is the number of applications our board has determined we should have in the pool to begin the process of having a walk. Yes, we are failing as a community when we do not have team applications from just about every member of our community including our Spiritual leaders. I want you to take note that I said “applications”. By that I mean we should put in our applications to team with the full intent of teaming when we can, every time we can. If God desires our individual talents for a particular team, He will open the door and pave the way clearly. By submitting our applications, perhaps we will be more alert and reminded of our commitment to support this Body of Christ in its efforts. When or if we are considered and asked by the selection committee, that is the time to pray for discerning guidance. How many times, in our lives, have we missed that “still small voice” God uses all because we were not alert enough to hear it above daily excuses and noise? How many times have we just said “No” because we didn’t turn it over to

God? How many times have we ignored His call because we have not felt worthy or able? There are many ways to participate as a community member of a team behind the scenes. If anything I have said has made you angry or question yourself; I say good. I hope your anger is righteous and moves you to action. I hope your questions prompt you to pray for deliverance from your fears. I hope that you come to the realization that Christ considers each and every one of us worthy to serve in whatever capacity we are able. We all make up the Body of Christ, each with our own individual gifts and talents.

You probably have heard this little story before but I think it applies to our situation.

***Once upon a time there were four people.  
Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody  
There was an important job to be done and Everybody  
was sure that Somebody would do it.  
Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.  
Everybody thought it was Somebody's job.***

Somebody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Anybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that the job wasn't done because Nobody did what Anybody could have done. If you are wondering how you can help our Community of Faith towards success or if what I have just said is a bit cryptic, unclear, or has not clicked in your mind.

Let me spell it out for you.

1. Pray for God's help in lifting you up to the task before you.
2. Seek out believers who are ready to further their relationship with Christ.
3. Pray about becoming their Sponsor and offering them an invitation to attend a "Walk to Emmaus".
4. Listen for God's guidance while offering this invitation.
5. Ask for and fill out an application for teaming before another day goes by.
6. Pray about how God wants you to respond if your name is selected to team.
7. Seek out and participate in a reunion group so that you will be held accountable to this task.
8. Pray for the Community and your personal sponsor and hold them accountable to the task.
9. Pray for God to deliver the Pilgrims and Team for the upcoming walks.

When you completed your "Walk to Emmaus" you received a cross with a very important statement on it. "Christ Is Counting On You", and He is!

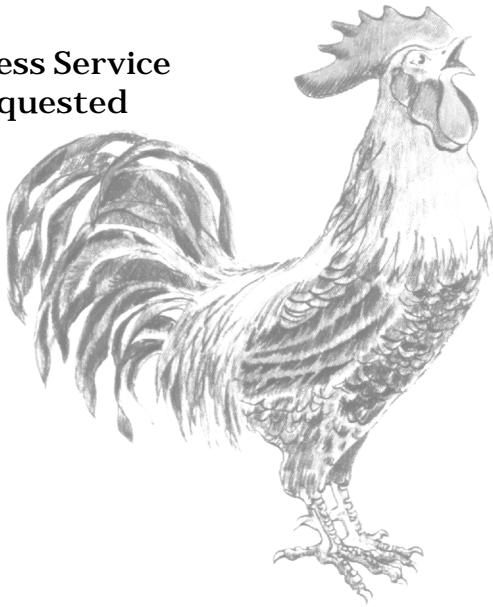
In His Name,

*John Wermuth*

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

Non-Profit  
Auto  
US Postage Paid  
JC Designs

Address Service  
Requested



## PRAYER CONCERNS

**PRAYER HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND CONCERNS:**

Please keep John Wermuth and his family in prayer as they deal with John's illness.

Please pray for wayward children and troubled homes.

*Is God leading you to team on the next walks? If you feel that He is, put in an application, then when we call, you can talk with Him then and decide. We can use teamers at all stages (first timers, once or twice, or "veterans"). If you need more info call 262-2967.*

*Bill Giese*

**CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?**

Be sure to notify Jerry Cooney at 795-2976 or by e-mail at [JerryCooney@netzero.com](mailto:JerryCooney@netzero.com)