

SonShine

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

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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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
I greet you in the name
of our Lord and Savior
Jesus the Christ. I pray
this finds you and your
family well. I pray that
you and your family had
a blessed holiday season.
Yes, Jesus is alive. It's
hard to believe that we are
in the year 2002. It seems
like we were just fearing
the Y2K problems. Time
waits for no one. With the
passage of time comes
change. We saw that this
past September 11. Change
can be good and also bad.
We like to deal with the
warm fuzzies and not the
cold pricklies.

When I look back on 9/11,
I think of 911 as a call for
help in an emergency. We
called for help in our
situation and God answered.
Think how worse the
situation would have been
if He had not been there
on that fateful day. We
tend to forget sometimes
that He is with us in the
good and the bad times.
He said I will never forsake
you. We saw how complacent
we had become. We

saw how much God is in
control of our lives. He
tells not to worry about
tomorrow for He is already
there waiting for us. Yet
worry we do and because
of that we lose focus on
who is in control. Out of
the tragedy on 9/11 came
blessings. We saw a
resurgence of prayer,
church attendance, caring
for others, and love for
this country that God has
given us. We finally started
putting our Priorities in
order. Sounds like a good
subject for a talk. Our
Sonshine Emmaus community
saw a year of blessings and
concerns. We saw, as a
result of our last two walks,
men and women draw
closer to Jesus. We saw
how important it is to walk
with Jesus and place Him
foremost in our lives. We
also saw some concerns.
We had to cancel a set of
walks due to lack of
applicants. As with our
country, we as an Emmaus
community become
complacent. We assume
that there will be enough
people to have a walk and
neglect to place our
emphasis on prayer to

see if God is calling us to
participate in some way
on a walk weekend. The
way our community grows
is through walks. With
that thought in mind,
I ask you to spend some
time in prayer to see what,
if anything, God may be
calling you to do in regard
to our walks this year.
The way I approach the
walks is, I pray around
Christmas time whether
God wants me to place
an application to team or
sponsor. If He says yes I
do as He says. I don't ask
if He wants me to team
in the spring or the fall.
I just ask if He wants me
to apply. The rest is in
His hands. The deadline
for application for the
spring walks was 1/1/02,
but if God is calling you
now, send in your
application now. If the
spring walk is full the
application will carry
over to fall. The
schedule for walk dates
and gathering dates,
times, and place is
included in this
newsletter. Please post
this in a location that
you will see at all times.
Please note the change
of gathering location.
Also note the time

change each quarter for the board meeting. For the Sonshine community to be vital and alive, we need your participation by coming to gatherings and other functions. We are all busy, yet we are asking for such a small amount of your time each month. Remember the joy and excitement you had on you walk weekend? Relive some of that by coming to the gatherings each month. As we head into a new year, I ask you to take a few moments now to pray for our country and our Emmaus community. Pray that God will guide us in the direction that He intends for us to follow. If we keep our eyes on the SON, the shadows will fall behind you.

God Bless You!

Jim Sims

FROM OUR CLERGY

The calendar says its that time again. Are you ready? What have you decided or will you decide as 2002 unfolds? Please read Genesis 5:21-4 and Hebrews 11:5-6. These passages offer two qualities of life that Enoch practiced that speak to us today if we would "hear from God:" (1) he walked with God and (2) he pleased God. The simple point is: Enoch's life was centered in and focused on God. Enoch enjoyed a living relationship with God; he was devoted to God. The New Testament word for godliness conveys the idea of a personal attitude toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. This personal attitude toward God is what is called devotion to God. But it must be devotion in action and not just a warm fuzzy (emotional feeling about God) or merely a private time of Bible reading and prayer. Devotion is not an activity; it is an attitude toward God.

I ask you "*what is your attitude toward God?*" Will you "walk with God" (allowing Him to walk with you) and will you seek to "please God"? 2002 will present many opportunities for you to exercise your living relationship with God in your family life, church life, social life, and Emmaus Life (attending monthly "gatherings," participating in "the group reunion," "teaming," "sponsoring pilgrims," and in "supporting "the walks").

What will your focus be?

Gratefully alive,
Bob Gibson

2002 Schedule of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
January 19	3:30	Mechanicsville UMC	D.D.U.
	5:00		Board Meeting
	5:30		Covered Dish
	6:30		Gathering
February 16	6:30	Mechanicsville UMC	Gathering
March 16	5:00	Mechanicsville UMC	Board Meeting
	5:30		Covered Dish
	6:30		Gathering
April 11-14		Abbey	Men's Walk
April 11			Sponsor's Hour
April 13			Candlelight, Gathering
April 14			Closing
* April 20	6:30	Mechanicsville UMC	Gathering
			<i>* (In case there may not be a walk we will have gathering on our regular time)</i>
May 11	5:30	Mechanicsville UMC	Board Meeting
	6:30		Gathering
May 16-19		Abbey	Women's Walk
May 16			Sponsor's Hour
May 18			Candlelight
May 19			Closing
June 15	3:30	Mechanicsville UMC	D.D.U.
	5:00		Board Meeting
	5:30		Covered Dish
	6:30		Gathering
July 20	6:30	Mechanicsville UMC	Gathering
August 17	5:00	Mechanicsville UMC	Board Meeting
	5:30		Covered Dish
	6:30		Gathering
September 21	6:30	Mechanicsville UMC	Gathering
October 19	5:30	Mechanicsville UMC	Board Meeting
	6:30		Gathering
October 24-27		Abbey	Men's Walk
October 24			Sponsor's Hour
October 26			Candlelight
October 27			Closing
November 7-10		Abbey	Women's Walk
November 7			Sponsor's Hour
November 9			Candlelight
November 10			Closing
November 23	3:30	Mechanicsville UMC	D.D.U.
	5:00		Board Meeting
	5:30		Covered Dish
	6:30		Gathering
December 21	6:30	Mechanicsville UMC	Gathering

Sonshine Welcomes New Members!

Sonshine Emmaus # 31... I have walked alot and each time I think that God could not put together a walk that could be any better. Well, once again He proved that if we just ask He will be there. I knew that being lay director a second time would be blessed and it was. God put together a wonderful team and blessed us with 15 spirit-filled Christian brothers who arrived on Thursday and it was like we had been brothers and been together for all time. These men were ready to go on Thursday night, and from there it was just jump on board and see where Christ would take us. I was truly inspired and thank God and the community for giving me another chance. I have been lifted up and enriched to have been there to witness the miracle of our Lord and all that He can accomplish on the walk to Emmaus.

Thanks be to God,
Bill Giese

Sonshine Emmaus

#31 & #32

Dave Baker	Bill Gillikin
Rodney Ballard	Larry Goff
Steve Casso	Tony Hubbard
John Coker	Dale Lawrence
Steve Combs	Tom Lewis
Dean Dorset	Russell Mann
David Efford	Dan Murphree
	Jim Vass

Brenda Bagby	Dell Goff
Hilda Chalker	Sheree Gostel
Kimberly Clark	Cindy Gumm
Sheri Coker	Barbara Howard
Mary Colgin	Elaine Hubbard
Laura Cone	Tammy Jenkins
Anne Cox	Donna Jones
Paige Cranor	Marty Lawrence
Mary Deal	Barbara Pate
Jeannie Garris	Patricia Summers
Linda Gillikin	Lyn Vass

"Lord, I Offer My Life to You" was the theme for these pilgrims -Sonshine #32. God so plainly told me this theme months before I was even asked to be Lay Director for the walk. For me, being in the background most of the time is my preference, but I know I can do all things through Christ. Meanwhile, I asked everyone to pray for me that His will be done, not mine, and that He would keep me focused on that fact. Those prayers were definitely answered. Usually for me, the teaming process is very hectic and difficult. This time was very different. Aside from a few bumps in the beginning, the whole process went very smoothly. God even laid on the hearts of two teamers the urge to team even though we had already begun the teaming process. I am thankful that they answered His knock! The best part was that Sheldon managed to get home on time so that I could get to teaming early. PRAISE GOD for small miracles! Thank you, Sonshine, for all your prayers. Don't ever underestimate the importance of prayer for the walks, the teams, and the pilgrims. On Sonshine #32, this I know to be true. We asked, we prayed, and we expected the Holy Spirit to work during the weekend. I know that HE was welcome and that His message of love was conveyed to the pilgrims as well as the theme of the weekend, "Lord, I Offer My Life to You". Aside from God, only the pilgrims truly know what God did in their hearts and if they have decided to completely offer their lives to Him. If they responded "Yes", then I say "Praise GOD", and if they did not then I say "Praise GOD" for I know a seed was planted and HE is not done with them yet! Many blessings to all of you in the coming year,

Jacque Drake
Lay Director, Sonshine #32

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER FEATURES A NEW COLUMN DEVOTED TO HELPING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER A BIT BETTER. THANKS TO BOBBY GIBSON FOR BEING WILLING TO INTERVIEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND HELP US LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THEM. THIS MONTH'S INTERVIEWS ARE WITH **JEFF AND CAROLYN CARTY, SONSHINE EMMAUS #1 AND #4**. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING INTERVIEWED OR HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS COLUMN, CONTACT BOBBY AT 550-0813 OR BY E-MAIL AT ibprayzn@aol.com.



DO YOU KNOW...?

Name: Jeff and Carolyn Carty

Home Church: Westminister Reformed PCA

Housewife/househusband

Children and ages: Valerie 15

Jeremy 13

Evan 9

Employment

Jeff: Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Newport News (Dept of Navy) Mechanical Engineer

Carolyn: Autumn Care Nursing Home Physical Therapist

Hobbies/pastimes: Children - Children - Children

Jeff Carty

Community and Walk #: SonShine 1

Date: April 1993

Theme: Just A Closer Walk

Table Name: Simon Peter the Rock

Information about Your FOURTH DAY:

Are you active in the Group Reunion (Reunion Group)? Yes

Meeting Schedule (Place, Date, Time): Home in Suffolk / Wed 7:00pm

Do you attend The Gathering? Yes

Have you served on The Board or served as an officer in the Community? Yes

Positions held: Member at Large, Assistant Lay Director (current)

Have you sponsored any pilgrims? Yes

Have you served on a Team? (Walk #s and positions held):

SONSHINE # 5, 4/94: table leader, "Christian Action" talk

SONSHINE # 8, 11/94: ALD #3, "Changing Our World" talk

SONSHINE # 10, 4/95: floater cha, "Christian Action" talk

SONSHINE # 13, 11/95: LD, "Life in Piety" talk

PENINSULA RAINBOW # 5, 5/97: ALD #3, "Priorities" talk

SONSHINE # 20, 4/98: speaker support cha, "Discipleship" talk

SONSHINE # 24, 10/98: ALD # 2, "Christian Action" talk

PENINSULA RAINBOW #13, 5/99: table leader, "Life in Piety" talk

SONSHINE # 26, 10/99: table leader

SONSHINE # 29, 10/00: chapel cha, "Changing Our World" talk

PENINSULA RAINBOW #21, 4/01: ALD#1, "Fourth Day" talk

SONSHINE # 31, 10/01: dining room cha, "Perseverance" talk

(cont'd on page 8)

Carolyn Carty

Community and Walk #: SonShine 4

Date: November 1993

Theme: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Table Name: Joy

Information about Your FOURTH DAY:

Are you active in the Group Reunion (Reunion Group)? No (but looking to)

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

Have you served on a Team? (Walk #'s and positions held):

SONSHINE # 7, 7/94: table cha

PENINSULA RAINBOW # 2, 6/96: table leader

PENINSULA RAINBOW #10, 6/98: table leader, "Life in Piety" talk

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

Past

Jeff: Lay Speaker, Asst. Lay Leader, Lay Leader, Council of Ministries, Pastor Parish Chairman, Administrative Board, UMM President (local Church), UMM President (Portsmouth District), Camp Rainbow, Jr. / Sr. High Sunday School

Carolyn: Lay Speaker, Christian Education Committee, Elementary Sunday School Teacher, Camp Rainbow

Current:

Jeff: 3rd Grade Sunday School (with Carolyn), Junior High Youth Group

Carolyn: 3rd Grade Sunday School

What does The Walk to Emmaus Ministry mean for you?

Emmaus for us is the real body of Christ. At so many churches, people never show their real selves and spend so much of their time and efforts trying to create the image of being the perfect Christian. At Emmaus, the people are real, with real life problems and concerns and the people are not afraid to admit them and show their real selves. The people love you the real you and not the created image.

What has your Walk done for you? Has it made a difference for you? If so, how?

Emmaus has caused us to deepen our relationship with God. We are sure that we are farther on our spiritual walks that we would have been if it had not been for Emmaus (not that we have reached any great plateaus in our walks we have just moved further along.) It has caused us to think about others more and how whatever small gifts, talents and abilities that we may have, they were given by God for us to give to others.

NOTICE!



Plans are already beginning for our 2002 walks!

There are openings for team and pilgrims. All applications need to be in by January 1st and July 1st... so don't delay!

These walks will be here before you know it so start making plans now!

Sonshine Emmaus Board of Directors and Committees

Class of 2002

Valerie Cooney
 Roger Lassiter
 Lois Miller
 David Ogburn
 Carol Rhoades
 Bill Sisson

Class of 2003

Kathy Terry
 Gene Mims
 Susan Hammond
 Russell Williams
 Paul Martin
 Craig Smith

Class of 2004

Jackie Casso
 George Kaloski
 O. J. Mallory
 Judy Oliver
 David Torrence
 Tom Verbecke

Community Lay Director
Assistant Community Lay Director
Secretary
Treasurer
Spiritual Directors

Jim Sims 737-4322
 Jeff Carty (757) 538-0816
 Joan Stewart 328-1588
 Dina Giese 262-2967
 Bobby Gibson 550-0813
 David Torrence 743-1077
 Russell Williams
 Bill Sisson 794-5864

COMMITTEES

<i>Newsletter</i>	Jerry Cooney	795-2976
	Fred Hedgecoth	795-7410
	Robin Jones	932-4690
<i>Registrar</i>	Debbie Gillis	262-7929
<i>Team Selection</i>	Bill Giese	262-2967
<i>Fourth Day Packets</i>	Craig & Libby Smith	932-4663
<i>Community Agape</i>	TEAM	
<i>Placemats</i>	Jeanie Wermuth	266-7247
<i>Post Weekend/Historian</i>	Jacque Drake	796-5753
<i>Music Director</i>	Glenda Creamer	932-9703
<i>Supplies</i>	JoAnne & Butch Kelchner	746-9005
<i>Weekend Community Support</i>	David Ogburn	795-9106
<i>Gathering Support</i>	Rick & Brenda Atkins	730-3935
<i>Day of Deeper Understanding</i>	Addie Lee Kelly	730-1257
	Lois Miller	328-0511
<i>General Agape</i>	Carol Rhoades	737-8337
<i>Outside Community Agape</i>	Bettie Sue Mills	798-2213
<i>Community Outreach</i>	Kirby Miller	328-0511
<i>Fourth Day Speaker</i>	Betty Jo Sims	737-4322
<i>Child Care</i>	Edna Heinig	737-9578
<i>Clergy Liason</i>	Bob Gibson	550-0813
<i>Prayer Wheel</i>	Tom & Suzy Verbecke	272-4618
<i>Banners</i>	Betsy Files	932-4598
<i>Sonshine Directory</i>	Jerry Cooney	795-2976
<i>Reunion Groups</i>	Valerie Cooney	795-2976
<i>Prayer Concerns</i>	Joan Stewart	328-1588
<i>Community Website</i>	Delany Deavers	675-4574
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Sheldon Drake	796-5753