



On the Path



The Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community

December, 2005 Walk In the Light Volume 5 Issue 11



The True Gift of Christmas

The two cards on the left were colored by children from Calvary United Methodist Church as part of the Evangelism Team's "Share Calvary 2005" Christmas challenge to the congregation. The challenge very simply is to share the "one true gift of Christmas; the one true joy of Christmas; the one true love of Christmas; the gift you know and enjoy - Jesus Christ.

What greater gift could we as members of the Emmaus Community give to those we truly love, then to introduce them to the One who makes all other gifts possible?

The cards have a back side that invites the recipient to join the giver at one of Calvary's special Christmas services. When you think about it, each one of us give dozens of Christmas cards each year, but how many of those cards come with an invitation to share in the joy of the season that can only come through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? What are we doing to make the baby in those manger scenes real to those around us?

And it's so easy this time of year to get friends to come to our special Christmas Eve services, but what if you told them that all of the services all year long were just as special, because each one brings us face to face with that baby in the manger. And as the year progresses, we follow that baby from the manger to the cross and through all of the many wonders that marked his life. Talk about a great mini-series. This story has it all.

*The Angel card was colored by Summer Fields
The Candle card was colored by Shelby Starke*

This Christmas as we are counting our blessings, and remembering all that God has done for us, let's include those we care about who may not yet have reached that understanding. Bring them to Christmas Eve services, yes. But don't abandon them afterwards. Bring them back to experience the ongoing joy of the present that keeps on giving all year long.

Christ the Savior is born! Let's make sure everyone knows about it.

- Dan Brennan



**There will be no Gathering or Board Meeting in December
Have a wonderful Christmas Season - Support your local church**



Spring Walks

Men's Walk # 19 - April 20 -23

Women's Walk # 20 - April 27 -30

Reminder: All walks in 2006 will be held at the Melwood Retreat Center

This Week: 12/5/05

Emmaus Community Stats
138 Weekends in
31 States and
4 Countries
88 Women's Weekends and
50 Men's Weekends



Sign up to pray for
our walks (and others)
online at:
www.3dayol.org/Vigil/

Pilgrim and Team Applications and this newsletter
may be downloaded from the web at www.somdemmaus.org
CLICK on "About Us" then CLICK "Documents"



Recurring Events of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community

Events are held at Calvary United Methodist Church unless otherwise indicated
3235 Leonardtown Road, Waldorf, Maryland

Gatherings: 7:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Next Gathering - January 21.

Gatherings are held monthly on the 3rd Saturday. The next Gathering will be January 21, 2006 at Calvary United Methodist Church in Waldorf. NOTE: No Gathering in December

Board of Directors Meeting: 3:30 p.m January 21, 2005

Board meetings are held prior to the Gathering on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next board meeting will be October 15. NOTE: No Board Meeting in December.

4th Day Seminars

The 4th Day Seminars are held in the spring and in the fall following the men's and women's walks. The next seminar is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m. Attendance at a 4th Day Seminar is required in order to sponsor pilgrims, and highly recommended for those who wish to team.



Southern Maryland Emmaus Community Reunion & Accountability Groups

The Reunion Group Coordinator, Clark Holmes, would like to hear about any active Groups in Southern Maryland. If you are having difficulty finding a Reunion Group, contact Clark Holmes, janmhol@verizon.net. Experience the 4th Day feeling with your fellow Emmaus travelers.

Bethel UMC, Upper Marlboro
Men Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.
Women Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

Calvary UMC, Waldorf
Men Tuesday - 7:15 p.m.
Women Thursday - 5:00 p.m. (Panera's)

First UMC, Laurel
Men Saturday - 7:00 a.m.
Women Saturday - 8:30 a.m.
Men Sunday - 12:30 p.m.
Women Sunday - 6:30 p.m.

Lexington Park UMC
Men Thursday - 12:00 p.m.
Women Thursday - 12:00 p.m.

Waters UMC, St. Leonard
Pastors Tuesday - 1:00 p.m.

Common Grounds Coffee Shop, Pr. Frederick
Men Friday - 7:30 a.m.
Women Friday - 6:15 a.m.

Lexington Park UMC, Lexington Park
Men Sunday - 6:00 p.m.
Women Sunday - 6:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd UMC, Waldorf
Women Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Call 301-653-7570 for directions (not at church)

Southern Calvert County Region
Southern Pines Community Center Senior's Lounge
Women Saturday - 9:00 a.m.

Living Springs Christian Fellowship, Bowie
Co-ed Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.

La Plata UMC, La Plata
Women Tuesday 12:00 p.m.
Men Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

www.somdemmaus.org

Have you registered yet? You need to register in order to access the members only area of our new website. This area will have items of interest to our members, as well as profiles of all those who have registered. Let us know what you would like to see in the members area as well as the public areas of the site. Register today.



On The Path

Deadline for next issue is January 3, 2006. The preferred method of submission is as an MSWord document file or a WordPerfect file sent via e-mail to the following address: Newsletter@somdemmaus.org. Very short articles or notes may be sent in the body of the e-mail message. Please send your comments and recommendations as well to the editor, Dan Brennan, at the e-mail address above.



Southern Maryland Emmaus - Leadership & Service



Board of Directors

Personal information contained in this newsletter is intended for Emmaus activities only, and will not be released to other organizations for any reason.

Marilynne Landweer <i>Board Chair</i>	301-374-9333	mlandweer@verizon.net
Henry Rowe <i>Vice Chair</i>	301-769-4637	Roweh@charlescounty.org
Jane Beswick <i>Secretary</i>	301-934-5344	jbeswick@aaahawk.com
John Carns <i>Treasurer</i>	301-645-4534	Carns@comcast.net
Jacque Benjamin <i>Childcare/Historian</i>	410-257-2595	jacque.benjamin@gmail.com
Randy Headrick <i>Communications</i>	301-475-3278	RDHeadrick@usa.net
Ruth Dixon <i>Registrar</i>	410-326-3821	mese22@olg.com
Lynn Glassbrook <i>Spiritual Director</i>	410-414-8109	revlynn@comcast.net
Charles Harrell <i>Asst. Spiritual Director</i>	301-947-4657	charles@faithworkshere.com
Roy Downs <i>Pilgrim Selection</i>	301-994-1110	Downsrw@atc-ls.stinigoes.navy.mil
Len Lent <i>Event Coordinator</i>	301-475-8207	mrlent@hotmail.com
Diane Walker <i>Agape Coordinator</i>	301-862-9280	Redruth@mindspring.com
Linda Flanagan <i>Gatherings</i>	301-645-1375	lflanagan@ccboe.com
Clark Holmes <i>Director at Large</i>	401-798-8393	Janmhol@verizon.net
David French <i>Music Director</i>	301-705-7758	frenchda99@aol.com
Laura Yax <i>Team Selection Chair</i>	410-535-4665	lkyax@comcast.net
Janet Goodwin <i>Director at Large</i>		janet.goodwin@navy.mil
Alan Wilkerson <i>Director at Large</i>	301-705-6814	Larry.A.Wilkerson.uscg.mil LWilke1@aol.com

On The Path

Is the newsletter of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community. Published monthly by e-mail, distributed by the Point of Contact for each participating church, and available on the Southern Maryland Emmaus website.

Southern Maryland Emmaus is affiliated with the International Emmaus Movement of The Upper Room, Nashville, Tn. Emmaus is a program offering of Upper Room Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Our purpose is to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian Action.

Please contact the POC for your church as listed in this newsletter if you are not receiving the newsletter. If your church does not currently have a POC, please prayerfully consider volunteering for that role.

Contact the Editor if you need a copy sent via snail mail.

Your Turn...

“What’s your story - About His glory?”

It was my awesome and humbling privilege to address the September 2005 Gathering with my 4th Day Talk. As I said that evening, I decided to give my talk because (a) the Lord said it was time to do so, but also because (b) as Gathering Coordinator for the Board of Directors, I am charged with lining up 4th Day Talk speakers. How could I ask you to do something I’d never done myself? In fact, how could I help anyone do it or decide to do it until I’d done it myself?

Guess what? It was a great experience. Not bad at all. Know why? Because the Lord does it for you!!!! Well, He is there...when you’re reflecting, organizing, reflecting, writing, reflecting, practicing, and delivering. Honestly. He is.

You just need a bit of quiet time with the Lord (sound familiar?) and a bit of paper. I needed a few extra days because when I write, I like to draft and let it all “simmer” for a bit before revisiting the writing for polish. When I took the draft out on the Thursday before the Gathering, whoosh! ...it flew right into place. (Thank you, Jesus.) Delivering the talk wasn’t bad either. Granted, the audience was smaller than usual, but the participants were smiling, laughed at the right spots, and were very, very connected. I felt the special prayers of my prayer partners the whole time I talked. Peaceful. Calm. Honest.

Several folks have asked me if there are guidelines, and yes, I did find some in the manual. Let me summarize:



Fourth Day Witness—

This is a person’s witness to God’s presence in his or her life and to developments in his or her walk with the risen Lord.

The witness may stem from an experience, a spiritual learning, a reflection on a stretch of his or her spiritual journey, or a challenge to live more fully in holiness and service. The Fourth-Day Witness is not a sermon, teaching, or exhortation. Nor is it an “Emmaus talk” or a nostalgic remembering of one’s Emmaus weekend. The Fourth-Day Witness is a first-person sharing that will cause others to reflect on God’s presence and call in their own lives and will inspire them to live more fully in grace as disciples. While the Fourth-Day Talk should come from the heart, it should also be thoughtful and well-prepared.

Generally, it’s a 5-10 minute talk. Over before you know it. And, we want to hear from our newest members as well as those who Walked years ago. If you just Walked, don’t think you don’t know enough yet; it’s YOUR 4th Day. Tell us about it.

I’ll have a clipboard circulating at the October Gathering. Sign up. Tell your story. YOUR turn!

PS...Many thanks to Mark Deskins, who’ll be sharing his Talk in October!
Who’s next???

Want to Know More?

In search of more information about Emmaus? Looking for a small gift for an Emmaus brother or sister? Just a reminder that the following Emmaus booklets are available at our monthly Gatherings:

- ***What is Emmaus?***
- ***The Early History***
- ***Coming Down from the Mountain: Returning to Your Congregation***
- ***The Group Reunion***
- ***Walking Side By Side – Devotions for Pilgrims***

- ***Sponsorship***
- ***Spiritual Growth Through Team Experience***
- ***Walk to Emmaus (small purple book, to replace the one you got on your walk but cannot find)***
- ***Emmaus Tri-Fold Brochure***

All booklets are \$3.00. The brochure is free. See you at the next Gathering.

Len Lent

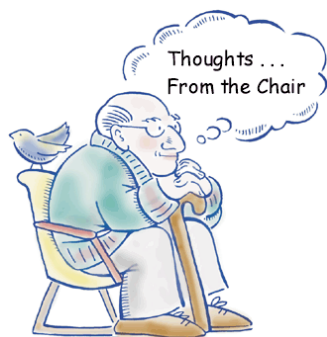


Southern Maryland Emmaus - Leadership & Service

Most Southern Maryland Committees are chaired by members of the Board of Directors, but service on those committees is open to all community mem-

AGAPE Support	Diane Walker	Newsletter	Dan Brennan
Child Care	Jacque Benjamin	Prayer Partner Coordinator	Jan Holmes
Community Historian	Jacque Benjamin	Prayer Vigil Coordinator	Kay Priest
Event Coordinator	Len Lent	Registrar	Ruth Dixon
Comm. Spiritual Director	Lynn Glassbrook	Reunion Group	Clark Holmes
Entertainment	Diane Walker	Team Selection Coordinator	Laura Yax & Linda Flannigan
Facility Representative	John Carns	Fourth Day Seminar	Board Reps from walks
Gathering Coordinator	Linda Flanagan	Pilgrim Selection	Laura Yax Roy Downs
Supply	Dru McLaughlin	Music Director	Janet Goodwin/David French
Comm. Lay Director	Marilynne Landweer	Sponsorship	Alan Wilkerson/Len Lent

**Communications includes e-mail, P/POC, Web, Directory and Newsletter sub committees*



What an awesome Fourth Day Seminar and Gathering we had in November. There were 50 people at the Fourth Day Seminar and 81 people at the Gathering! We had a lot of great food and a wonderful time of fellowship. The Spirit was mov-

ing and there was excitement in the room as the ladies met for the first time after their weekend. Where you there? Did you sense the Spirit moving as we gathered together? I sure did.

Please remember that we will not have a Gathering in December, but I do hope to see you all at the next Gathering in January. I know it will be another Spirit-filled time as we gather together for fellowship, music, a Fourth Day Talk, and Communion. Mark your calendar and plan to attend the next Gathering on January 21st. Have a blessed and safe

Christmas! De Colores! Marilynne

Sound System

At the Nov. Board meeting we voted to raise funds for an additional sound system so we can eliminate the rush to relocate the single system from the main "Talk" room to the room where the Candlelight and Closing events take place. During the Nov. Gathering we took a 2nd offering for this project and raised \$300, giving us a great start. We do not have a firm price for the new system but estimate it will be in the \$700 - \$800 range. Your contributions to this effort to make our Walks even better are greatly appreciated. You can make contributions at the next gathering or send them directly to John Carns at 3775 Foxhall Drive, White Plains, MD 20695.



Current Sound System





Southern Maryland Emmaus - Prayer Points of Contact

This is the person to contact for newsletter distribution

***If your church is not listed, please volunteer to be the Prayer POC
send your name, e-mail address and telephone to newsletter@somdemmaus.org***

Calvary UMC	Phil Landweer	Phil.landweer@verizon.net	301-374-9333
Cedar Grove UMC	Jacque Benjamin	jfbnjzb@quixnet.net	410-257-2595
Emmanuel Baptist	Dick Fogg	upper12_4us@peoplepc.com	410-257-5015
Emmanuel UMC	Lynn Glassbrook	revlynng@comcast.net	410-414-8109
Christ Episcopal Church	Mary Kercher	Mkercher@aol.com	301-934-5813
Corkran Memorial UMC	Stanley Harrell	sharrell@crosslink.net	301-449-6037
Faith Bible Church	Carol Lanzi	cblanzi2@verizon.net	301-862-9521
Faith UMC (Rockville)	Cindy Matter	cindymatter03@aol.com	301-926-7830
First UMC (Laurel)	Dave Meixner	themeixners@comcast.net	301-498-1728
Good Shepherd UMC	Linda Flanagan	lflanagan@ccboe.com	301-645-1375
Bethel UMC	Jan Holmes	janmhol@verizon.net	410-798-8393
Indian Head UMC	Melvin Grover	becky.grover@c21nm.com	
La Plata UMC	Bonnie Thompson	bonbri@comcast.net	301-934-4321
Leonardtown Baptist Church	Carol Lanzi	cblanzi2@verizon.net	301-862-9521
Living Springs	Donna Young	dmy_psych@comcast.net	
Lexington Park UMC	Sandi Hauenstein	Sandi@hauenstein.com	301-994-3363
Marbury Baptist Church	Denise McConnell	dmcconnell@earthserve.com	301-743-6995
Olivet UMC	Sue Shorb Sterling	sues@intergate.com	410-394-0773
St. Paul UMC (Lusby)	Ruth Dixon	mese22@olg.com	410-326-3821
St. Paul's UMC (Leonardtown)	Carol Lanzi	cblanzi2@verizon.net	301-862-9521
Shiloh UMC	Ron Brown	norrebel@comcast.net	
Smithville UMC	Kathy Massaro	emmaus93@comcast.net	410-257-1953
Trinity UMC	Traci Conklin	TRConklin@comcast.net	
Trinity Baptist Waldorf)	Karen Smith	musicladykaren@yahoo.com	301-274-2504
Waters Memorial UMC	Dru McLaughlin	Lf1640@chesapeake.net	410-535-4313

Please Review

Please review the list above and help us to insure that your church is properly represented by an Prayer Point of Contact. If you spot errors or omissions, please e-mail the corrections to: communications@somdemmaus.org.

“I Have a Concern”

How often we are part of conversations that start with those words ... or words like them. And often, they reflect a genuine heart to “bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). But sometimes, conversations can take a turn in the direction of gossip rather than being an expression of genuine caring. As a people formed by grace and committed to sharing God’s amazing love powerfully with each other and with new folks who come among us, how can we promote healthy concern and unity, and avoid division and talebearing, in the Emmaus community?

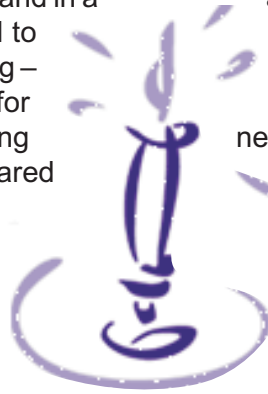
As your Spiritual Directors, we want to offer you a simple set of five steps to test and measure our conversations with each other.

First, is it gracious? Is what I’m saying ... or hearing ... shared in a spirit of charity for our neighbor, and in a way which honors God? Do I feel that I need to look around and see who else might be listening – in other words, would I be embarrassed for someone else to hear, or is what I’m talking about something I wouldn’t mind having shared openly with everyone? Would it be hurtful, or helpful, to the community, *including those who are most directly involved*? In Emmaus, we want always for our sharing to be “seasoned with [the] salt” of God’s love. (Colossians 4:6)

Second, is it privileged? As Rev. Stanley Harrell recently reminded us at a closing service, confidentiality is one of the keys to the life of the Emmaus community. People need to know that they are safe with each other, and with us as a whole. What is shared at a table, or in a reunion group, needs to stay there. “Information” that we think we have about one another needs to be kept as a sacred trust. If there is a concern about how something we think we know might affect the community or a walk, it should be shared with a Community Spiritual Director or the Community Lay Director, in a way that cannot be overheard. After that, allow the leaders of the community, working with the Board, to care for it properly. We probably cannot “report back” on what has been done without breaking confidentiality ourselves. Trust the integrity of the community and the process. Meanwhile, pray for the persons or situation that causes you concern, and trust

God also to be working in that life or situation. (James 5:16).

Third, does it uphold the leadership of the Community? The Board of Directors, the lay leadership of the community, is an elected body — it represents you. While the Spiritual Directors are not elected by the whole community, their selection is affirmed by the Board. In other words, the leadership belongs to you, is accountable in part to you (being accountable also to the Holy Spirit and to our covenantal agreement as a chartered organization with Emmaus Upper Room), and seeks to be responsible and responsive to you. Uphold your leadership in prayer, and in your conversations. When we undermine our leaders, we undermine the community and ultimately the experience of ourselves and others in Emmaus. When we uphold our leaders, we are taking a step to maintain the wholeness of Emmaus now, and to build for tomorrow.



Fourth, is it necessary? There are lots of things that we would rather not know, or don’t need to know. There are things that we know that we have no need to share. This is one place where the wisdom of Proverbs 12:23 is really useful.

Fifth, does this conversation glorify God? Do you feel that you could honestly give thanks to God for this conversation? If not, it may be time to be silent or to redirect the discussion.

We are blessed with a wonderful community. Let’s keep it that way by refusing to pollute it with the toxic waste of gossip, sowing division, or “stirring the pot”. Instead, let our conversation be loving, gracious, and what we can give thanks to God for, with a good heart.

De colores,
Lynn Glassbrook

Charles Harrell

Community Spiritual Directors



Coming March 17 & 18th Training by Nashville Upper Room

The Board will have a training session on Friday evening and the Community will have training on Saturday from 8:30 until 3:00 p.m. There will be no Gathering that evening. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this important training from Upper Room Emmaus. There will be additional information in coming months.

By-Law Change to "ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES"

The Board of Directors would like to change this article of the By-Laws so that it is in alignment with the current Board committees. In order to change the By-Laws, Article VII states that we need to circulate the change to the Community via the Community Newsletter. If 25 community members object to the new amendment, then it will not be adopted. Any objections must be received within 60 days of the mailing of the Newsletter.

The changes include the following:

Entertainment will fall under Agape Support, since this is a Weekend activity. The following will be combined to form the **Communication** Committee: Newsletter, Directory, E-mail/POC, and Web/Board Liaison. New committees will include **Pilgrim Selection** and **Fourth Day Seminar**. The Pilgrim Selection Committee will be responsible for ensuring the criteria for selecting pilgrims, including the Equal Commitment Rule (see elsewhere in this Newsletter for the ECR), is being followed. The Fourth Day Seminar Chair will be responsible for the coordination of the Fourth Day Seminar.

Current wording:

"Section 1. The Board of Directors shall name individuals to chair the following committees: Gatherings, Registration, Group Reunions, Team Selection, Newsletter, Music, Entertainment, Event Coordinator, Directory, E-mail/POC, Childcare, Web/Board Liaison, Agape Support, and any other committees that the Board deems necessary. Committee chairs serve at the pleasure of the Board and are accountable to the Board of Directors."

New wording:

"Section 1. The Board of Directors shall name individuals to chair the following committees: Gatherings, Registration, Group Reunions, Team Selection, Pilgrim Selection, Communication, Music, Event Coordinator, Child Care, Agape Support, Fourth Day Seminar, and any other committees that the Board deems necessary. Committee chairs serve at the pleasure of the Board and are accountable to the Board of Directors."





"Walk in the Light" - Southern Maryland Emmaus
Visit us on the web at www.somdemmaus.org

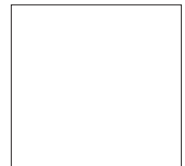
"Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:32

Information on the Southern Maryland Walk to Emmaus, as well as pilgrim and team applications may be found on our website:
www.somdemmaus.org

On the Path

1005 Norfolk Dr.
La Plata, Md. 20646



Time Sensitive Material