



On the Path



The Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community

January, 2008 Walk In the Light Volume 8 Issue 1

2007 Financial Summary from John Carns and thanks to a Generous Community

Greetings brothers and sisters and heartfelt thanks for your generosity in 2007. 2007 proved to be both a challenging and fruitful year for our community. As we are all experiencing daily, the cost of everything continues its steady rise. Thus, we should not be surprised when our Walk-related expenses increased proportionately. We were blessed on many fronts this year through sponsors, team members, an unexpected discount and most of all YOU, the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community.

For the year we had approximately \$40k in cash flow, with income totaling \$41k and expenses totaling just under \$40k. The majority (90%) of our income and expenses is directly related to the four walks we conduct each year, with the bulk of this paid directly to the Retreat centers that host our Walks. Other significant expense categories included: liability insurance, books; brochures; manuals, music licenses and related expenses, donations to facilities used for Gatherings. Among our expenses this year were some purchases to acquire Chrysalis resources with the intent to form a Southern Maryland Chrysalis community next year.

In addition to fees paid by sponsors and team members our only other sources of income are the offerings we receive at our regular Gatherings and the Candlelight services for each walk and scholarship contributions made by team members, churches and reunion groups. Gathering and Candlelight offerings for 2007 totaled \$6,500, of which 10% is reserved for scholarships. Other scholarship contributions totaled nearly \$1,000.

Of special note this year was an unexpected discount we received from Melwood as they reduced the cost of the dining Facility for our spring walks of \$2,000. This unexpected gift and the community extraordinary generosity, especially in response to our plea at the spring Candlelights, were key factors in turning a difficult financial situation into a positive outcome.

Local Gatherings

Southern Gathering:

Lexington Park UMC
2nd Saturday of each month
5:00 p.m. Potluck, 6:00 p.m. Worship

Central Gathering:

Calvary UMC
3rd Saturday of each month
6:00 p.m. Fellowship (bring snack)
7:00 p.m. Worship

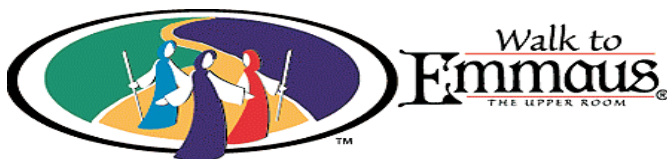
Northern Gathering:

1st Laurel UMC
4th Saturday of each month
5:00 p.m. Potluck 6:00 p.m. Worship

In addition to the monthly gatherings, plan to join as a community at Candlelight and Closing of each Walk. In a month when a 4th Day Seminar is scheduled (May & November) we will have one Gathering only at Calvary UMC immediately following the Seminar.

There will be no gatherings in April, October, or December due to Walks or holidays.





Spring Walks - 2008 - West River

Men's Walk # 27 - April 24 - 27

Women's Walk # 28 - May 1 - 4

Men's Walk #29 October 30 - November 2

Women's Walk # 30 November 6 - 9

Team Applications were due December 15, 2007 (late applications may still be accepted)

Pilgrim Applications are due by February 15, 2008 - This deadline is important

This Week: 01/01/2007

Emmaus Community Stats

5 Weekends in

3 States and

1 Countries

2 Women's Weekends and

3 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

Central Gathering: 1/19, Calvary UMC, Waldorf 7:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:00 p.m.

Southern Local Gathering: Lexington Park UMC 1/12 Potluck at 5, gathering at 6:00.

Northern Local Gathering: Living Springs Christian Fellowship 1/26 Potluck at 5, gathering at 6:00.

Board of Directors Meeting: 1/19 3:00 p.m. at Calvary UMC



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 date is May 17, 2007, 4:00 p.m. at Calvary United Methodist church in Waldorf. 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, Gordon Piscacek, would like to hear about any active Groups in Southern Maryland. If you are having difficulty finding a Reunion Group, contact Gordon. Experience the 4th Day feeling with your fellow Emmaus travelers.

Bethel UMC, Upper Marlboro
Co-ed - Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Naval Air Station, Patuxent River
Men, Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Lexington Park UMC, Lexington Park
Co-ed Tuesday 7:30 a.m. Bob Evans
Co-ed Thursday - 11:30 a.m. (home setting)

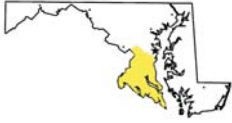
www.somdemmaus.org

Have you registered yet? You need to register in order to access the members only area of our 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 31, 2008. 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
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NOTE: Updating of this list is in progress

Janet Goodwin <i>Board Chair</i>	301-737-4070	Janet.Goodwin1@gmail.com
Tim Reed <i>Vice Chair</i>	410-715-6541	ProfReed@comcast.net
Jan Drass <i>Secretary</i>	301-834-6571	jdrass@maranatha.net
John Carns <i>Treasurer</i>	301-645-4534	Carns@comcast.net
Mark Saunders <i>Event Coordinator</i>	301-396-4630	guitarmark9@msn.com
Bob Bohn <i>Asst. Events Coord.</i>	410-326-0645	bkbohn@comcast.net
Len Lent <i>Communications/Histor.</i>	301-475-8207	mrlent@hotmail.com
Roy Downs <i>Registrar</i>	301-994-1110	downsrpma@netzero.net
Sue Shorb-Sterling <i>Spiritual Director</i>	410-326-8400	sues@integrate.com
Donna Young <i>Asst. Registrar</i>	301-218-1257	dmy_psych@verizon.net
Ruth Dixon <i>Sponsorship</i>	410-326-38211	mese22@olg.com
Gordon Piscacek <i>Reunion Coordinator</i>	301-336-4481	gp18@verizon.net
Linda Flanagan <i>Team Selection Chair</i>	301-645-1375	Lflanagan@ccboe.com
Lisa Hegedus <i>Asst. Team Selection</i>	301-373-8974	hegedus2@md.metrocast.net
Ken Walker <i>Asst. Spiritual Director</i>	301-863-8500	pastorkenw@mindspring.com
Rich Weaver <i>Music Director</i>	301-843-2194	rhythmuitar1@hotmail.com
Diane Walker <i>Agape Coordinator</i>	301-862-9280	redruth@mindspring.com
Elizabeth Harrell <i>Asst. Agape Coord.</i>		lunchladyesh@hotmail.com

On The Path

Is the newsletter of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community. Published bi-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.



Pondering Agape

The Greek word "Agape" ("brotherly love") was used by the early Christians to refer to the self-sacrificing love of God for humanity, which they were committed to reciprocating and practicing towards God and among one another.

Many, through modern times, have thought that this word represents divine, unconditional, self-sacrificing, active, volitional, and thoughtful Love. *Encarta Dictionary* defines "agape": Christian love: selfless love felt by Christians for their fellow human beings or *Merriam-Webster: CHRISTIANITY- 4 a: unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another: as (1): the fatherly concern of God for humankind (2): brotherly concern for others* *Upper Room Emmaus Glossary* gives - Agape Acts: Special acts of prayer, sacrifice and expressions of Christian love on behalf of a participant by another Christian; the purpose of agape acts is to reflect God's unconditional love.

Well then, if we look at a weekend Emmaus Walk, the word "agape" is used in many different contexts. I would like to think out loud with you about one particular application of agape as it applies to "what we as a community send to the Pilgrims".

Looking back at our origins in the Cursillo movement, the Spanish word "palanca" was used to express what we now refer to as agape. For me it is interesting to note that the word "palanca" literally means "lever" and was chosen because it symbolized the concept of what we do to lift others closer to God.

As Pilgrims encounter the many examples of agape through out the Walk, "they become more aware of the good news of God's undergirding & unconditional love. They discover that this love knew them before they were born and now accepts them as they are. This love inspires faith as the foundation for building one's life. This same love is now being made visible through the prayers and sacrifices of caring people who have labored on the participants' behalf". (*Upper Room Handbook*)

What I ponder over is the way the community expresses its "agape" through the individual communications of its members, more specifically what we write or don't write! We can all agree that there is certainly no lack of agape expressed in the massive numbers of gifts, table place mats, poems and sayings. We do well with our personal agape (signed letters from family, church and close friends). But when it comes to general agape (unsigned notes, letters or posters), I believe that we do not respond with the same intensity. It also seems that we do not communicate our love, special prayers or acts of sacrifice in written form to the pilgrims. I only make this observation based on the experiences I have had with the Delmarva (Cursillo) Emmaus and Chrysalis community that I was a part of for some 20 years, and being part of Walks and Flights in a handful of other communities.

In those communities it was not uncommon to receive either individually [20-30] or corporately [25-50] messages of love, special prayers and acts of sacrifice both as a pilgrim or team member. They might tell of praying on ones knees, at the chancel of a church, with their prayer group or reunion group, praying thru a Psalm or Scripture for me, and for the pilgrims as a group or the team. There were accounts of self sacrifice like fasting meals or certain food items like desserts, giving up watching a favorite TV show to spend the time in prayer and bible study, or doing acts of charity in our honor. There were so many examples of love with out expectation of return moving me to a greater awareness of God's love for me.

One of the most simple and most moving notes I received was from a teenager when I was the LD for the first Delmarva Chrysalis Flight. His message was short. He wanted to be there for the Flight events but because he knew I had recently lost my father that I loved so much, he was going to give this time to helping his father work on his boat (something he never does) as his agape for me!

So, I wonder, can the Southern MD Emmaus (and Chrysalis) community embrace the opportunity to share God's love by acts of love, special prayer and sacrifice as a form of general agape and communicate that to Pilgrims and Team through notes to each person or a general letter that can be read or posted in the Talk Room, always remembering that what is done for one is done for all.

De Colores & Fly with Christ!
God Bless, Ken Horne



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	Mark Saunders	Prayer Partner Coordinator	Diane Walker
Community Historian	Len Lent	Prayer Vigil Coordinator	Sara Martin
Event Coordinator	Mark Saunders	Registrar	Roy Downs
Comm. Spiritual Director	Sue Shorb-Sterling	Reunion Group	Gordon Piscacek
Entertainment	Dan Brennan	Team Selection Coordinator	Linda Flanagan
Facility Representative	Tim Reed	Fourth Day Seminar	Board Reps from walks
Gathering Coordinator	Mark Saunders	Pilgrim Selection	Roy Downs/Donna Young
Supply	VACANT	Music Director	Rich Weaver
Comm. Lay Director	Janet Goodwin	Sponsorship	Ruth Dixon

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

A short NOTE from your community MUSIC Director:

Happy New Year! My name is Rich Weaver. I have the privilege of worshipping at Providence-Fort Washington UMC in friendly, Friendly, Maryland. I was a pilgrim on Southern Maryland Walk to Emmaus #15 and sat at the table of Paul.

I am responding to a request to COMPOSE an article for the January 2008 Southern Emmaus Newsletter. In an effort to maintain HARMONY, I decided to SCALE down the length of this PITCH for more MUSICIANS, hoping it might strike a CHORD in the hearts of those who are not currently participating in that ministry. To be on a SOUND footing, Southern Maryland Emmaus needs a broad cross-section of MUSICIANS to support its other ministries.

It's difficult to MEASURE the impact that MUSIC has on pilgrims and the community on weekends, at gatherings and other functions.

The community has had a MAJOR change this year with the addition of two new venues for gatherings. It is a MINOR problem that most of the KEY members who can SING and/or PLAY an INSTRUMENT reside in the central and southern sections of our service region. That said we have some of the most talented folks in the area BAR none.

We are CONDUCTING a search and will not REST until we have uncovered every hidden talent in our growing community. If you would like to be a part of our STAFF, send me an e-mail with your range of talents (voice range, instrument(s), arranging ability, etc.)

Finally, remember the old adage, if it ain't BA-ROQUE, don't fix it!

De Colores!

Your Brother in Christ

Rich

Immediate Community Needs:

Supply Coordinator - someone is needed to purchase basic supplies for each Walk and oversee an inventory of items kept on hand

Wall Agape Coordinator - someone who acquires agape letters for each Walk from other Emmaus communities throughout the world and develops Southern Maryland wall agape to send to other communities mostly via email

Contact Diane Walker: redruth@mindspring.com





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***

Bowie UMC	Helen McProuty	hmcprouty@verizon.net	301-262-0762
Calvary UMC	Dan Brennan	calvumc1@verizon.net	301-934-0334
Cedar Grove UMC	Jacque Benjamin	jacque.benjamin@gmail.com	410-257-2595
Emmanuel Baptist	Dick Fogg	upper12_4us@peoplepc.com	410-257-5015
Emmanuel UMC	Ed Plotts	ewpjr6@comcast.net	410-535-2992
Dahlgren UMC	Robert Kertesz	cardinalpilot177@comcast.net	301-259-2933
Clinton UMC	June Fauber	jfauber610@hotmail.com	301-292-5483
Corkran Memorial UMC	Stanley Harrell	sharrell@crosslink.net	301-449-6037
Faith Bible Church	Wendy Headrick	wbheadrick@usa.net	301-475-3278
Faith UMC (Rockville)	Cindy Matter	cindymatter03@aol.com	301-926-7830
First UMC (Laurel)	Dave Meixner	themeixners@comcast.net	301-498-1728
Glenn Dale UMC	Kay Smith	Zincdr@aol.com	301-262-0694
Good Shepherd UMC	Linda Flanagan	lflanagan@ccboe.com	301-645-1375
Bethel UMC	Jan Holmes	janmhol@verizon.net	410-798-8393
Indian Head UMC	Sarah Miller	sarahlundmiller@aol.com	301-743-2490
La Plata UMC	Bonnie Thompson	bonbri@comcast.net	301-934-4321
Leonardtown Baptist Church	Wendy Headrick	wbheadrick@usa.net	301-475-3278
Living Springs	Donna Young	dmy_psych@verizon.net	301-218-1257
Lexington Park UMC	Kathie Wright	kaatrobjas@verizon.net	301-862-4048
Marbury Baptist Church	Denise McConnell	dmccconnell@earthserve.com	301-743-6995
Mt. Zion UMC	Buddy Beal	cnbeal@gmpexpress.net	301-866-6377
New Life Wesleyan Church	Dona Batten	gsuslivs@comcast.net	301-752-3795
Olivet UMC	Bob Bohn	bkbohn@comcast.net	410-326-0645
Providence/Ft. Washington UMC	Rich Weaver	rhythmuitar1@hotmail.com	301-843-2194
St. Paul UMC (Lusby)	Ruth Dixon	mese22@olg.com	410-326-3821
St. Paul's UMC (Leonardtown)	Wendy Headrick	wbheadrick@usa.net	301-475-3278
Shiloh UMC	Stanley Harrell	sharrell@crosslink.net	301-449-6037
Smithville UMC	Kathy Massaro	snjwalk93@comcast.net	410-257-1953
South Potomac Church	P.J. Pitonyak	LadyPJay@aol.com	301-579-6811
Trinity UMC	Laura Yax	lkyax@comcast.net	410-535-4665
Trinity Baptist Waldorf)	Karen Smith	musicladykaren@yahoo.com	301-274-2504
Waters Memorial UMC	Dru McLaughlin	mikeanddru@comcast.net	410-535-4313

New Southern Maryland Website To Coming Soon

Very soon the community website will be moving. The new site is currently under construction and in testing, so our existing site will continue to be used until we are given the OK to move. Pat Knowland has been working hard to prepare the site to serve the community. Watch for more information.



“Emmaus Moments”

by David Lockney

Lexington Park United Methodist Church

Southern Maryland Walk to Emmaus #25

Table of Matthew

I can still smell the damp air on that cold morning in December 1981. I was eleven years old and a pallbearer at my cousin’s funeral. Paul had died just four days earlier due to trauma suffered from a gun shot wound to his head. He was only twelve. “Playing with a loaded gun they found in a bureau drawer. Such a shame. So young.” Those were the whispers I would consistently overhear as I tried to piece together this tragedy in my naive mind. Paul was my first and best friend.

I can very easily take myself back to that day. Standing next to the casket at the gravesite, I can feel my Dad standing very close behind me. At ten years old I was doing everything I could to be a “man.” “Stay strong. Don’t Cry. Men don’t cry,” I would tell myself over and over again holding onto the hope that the more I said it that I would eventually believe it. But, the pain inside me just kept building. Then my Dad did something that took me by complete surprise. I can see his face so clearly. He crouched down and looked me right in the eyes. He told me that it was “o.k. to cry. Even men cry. You have been brave enough for one day.” It was the first time in my life that I remember connecting with my Dad. It is hard to find words to describe what I saw in my Dad’s face that morning, but something in his eyes, for just a moment, bridged that “professional distance” often found between a father and a son.

Needless to say, I broke down and poured out the four days of bottled pain from my heart and my soul. All the while, my Dad was right there beside me.

So, why do I relate that story in an article about what the Emmaus experience meant to me? Good question. Because, if you can identify with how I felt in that moment I just described, then you can identify with how much the Emmaus experience meant to me. I consider

that particular moment in my life an “Emmaus Moment.” The Walk to Emmaus helped me make the same connection with God that I made with my Dad twenty-six years ago this month. And, while I didn’t realize at the time, I am sure I was connecting with God through my Dad. Just as I believe that God was connecting with me via my Dad. That, to me, is an “Emmaus Moment.” We all have Emmaus Moments, and my eyes have been opened to better recognize and embrace those moments.

You know, I was raised a good, God-fearing Episcopalian boy. I was a lead Acolyte. I was an active member of the Youth Group. I never really read the Bible, but I listened to the Priest. And, I always followed the discipline of the liturgy. I grew into, what I considered to be, a man of strong faith. I can say without hesitation that I love God with all my heart, and I have accepted Jesus as my personal savior. Almost arrogantly, I believed my walk with God was “good enough.” Heck, I go to church on Sunday. I pray regularly. I raise my children to be believers. I go to my wife’s Sunday school class - every now and then. “Good enough.”

By actually experiencing God’s love and grace through the Walk to Emmaus, I realize that I was not walking WITH God. I was walking around God. During the Walk, I actually felt God put his arm around me and whisper in my ear, “Let’s start our walk TOGETHER.” It was at that moment that I put MY arm around God and said, “O.K., let’s go.” I have always told my wife that the best way to pick a church is to walk into the sanctuary on a Sunday morning and see if you feel a “hug from God.” I don’t feel like I have to go to Church to get His hug anymore.

For Denise and Michael Breckon and the Emmaus members of Lexington Park United Methodist Church, Norma and I can’t thank you enough for such a wonderful opportunity. For the Magnificent Table of Matthew, God Bless you all.

So, may your 4th Days be filled with “Emmaus Moments” as you continue on YOUR walk with God. De Colores!

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. It is by his Grace that you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-5

Alive in Christ through God’s Grace... I now know, truly, what that means and how it feels.



DeColores and Happy New Year to everyone!!

Wow, the holidays came and went like a fast moving storm front, blowing thru So Md.

The Goodwin family celebrated Christmas with everyone at home for the 1st time in 5 years. Yep, all 5 kids, son-in-laws, future daughter-in-law and 5 grandchildren (of which 4 are under the age of 4 years). It was pure chaos with the 4 little ones running around; lots of laughter, sharing, eating; and Pat & I wouldn't have had it any other way!

One evening before Christmas, when it was quiet (or as quiet as it gets in the house), I settled down to watch "White Christmas" - one of my favorite movies. I just love the old movies. They certainly don't make them like that anymore. Give me a Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers movie any day!

One of the songs in the movie is "Count Your Blessings" (instead of sheep). I have taken time during the past couple of weeks to do exactly that – count my blessings – and there are so many. I give God all the glory and credit for each and every one of them.

One of the biggest blessings we all have to share is that God gave us His Son, Jesus Christ. He sent Jesus to be among us, flesh and blood as a baby, to grow and live with us. To share and teach us how we, as His disciples, are called to spread the Good News and bring others to Him. God lives in each and every one of us, and because of that He is with us at work, home, at the store, on the highway and especially in our neighborhoods. Imagine this – you are walking down the street, and someone passes you walking the other way. Do you acknowledge them? Say Hi? Or just concentrate on your footsteps and where you are going. What if that person was Jesus, returning to us and you ignored him?

Take time each night, when going to bed, to count the blessings God has bestowed upon you. I bet you will quickly fall fast asleep doing so.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the monthly gatherings, candlelight and closing of the 2008 week-ends. At candlelight, look at the people standing next and across from you. The glow that you see is the love of Christ, shining through each and every person.

May the love and peace of Christ be with you each and every day.

YSIC,
Janet



De Colores Southern Maryland Emmaus,

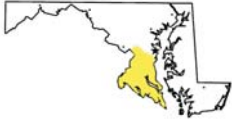
Greetings from Chrysalis in Southern Maryland! I hope your holiday was filled with joy and hope in Jesus Christ! My name is Alan Hemming and I am the chair of a committee trying to get Chrysalis to started down here in Southern Maryland. What is Chrysalis you ask? Chrysalis is the youth version of Emmaus. We had our 1st HOOT (Chrysalis name for a gathering) in November where around 30 youth participated in. It was a blessing to see youth that are interested in this amazing journey. The committee and I are hoping that we will be able to have support from Southern Maryland Emmaus. I believe that Emmaus and Chrysalis should be one and work together. The committee and I

would like to welcome everyone to the next HOOTs on January 5th and March 1st at 7 pm. All the HOOTs will be held at Trinity UM Church, in Prince Frederick.

If you are interested in helping or want more information, please feel free to contact us by e-mail at chrysalisinsouthernmaryland@yahoo.com or alan.hemming@gmail.com. God Bless and hope everyone has a wonderful year!

FWC (Fly with Christ),

Alan Hemming
(Chair of Chrysalis in Southern Maryland Committee)



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

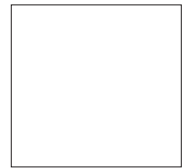
"Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

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