From the CLD

Hello. My name is PJ Pitonyak. I worship at South Potomac Church in White Plains, Maryland. I walked on Southern Maryland Emmaus #24, and I sat the table of Esther. (You clap. I do the royal wave.) This year I am excited to serve as the Community Lay Director. I have two main goals. One is to move our community forward. We have been dwindling and apathetic, and I will strive to rebuild us to what we once were like when I first walked. Secondly, I want to be available to you as I encourage you to participate more with your personal God-given gifts. Pray, and hear God tell you how He is counting on you to do, and then, please, respond to that prayer by stepping up to serve. In this crazy and negative world, we need Him, and we need to be like Him and to serve Him as the disciples He created each of us to be.

When I answered the call to serve on the SO MD Emmaus Board, I did not know at the time that I would be soon retiring. God has given me the time to do the best job I can do for the community. I retired after 35 years as a special education teacher. I am still tutoring and coaching others to lead healthy lives (plug), but I plan on really working hard and enjoying it since I have been given the opportunity and the time. Emmaus is my priority this year. Even last year, as the active Assistant Community Lay Director, I had no idea how easy it was to serve on the Board in terms of time… a meeting a month and a few e-mails. We can still use people to serve on the Board, and I promise you, I will not leave you hanging as you start your tenure. Is God calling you? Can He depend on you? Is there another way you can build our community? Share your ideas with me.

see Pitonyak page 5
2019 Walks - West River

Men's Walk #59 September 19 - 22

Women's Walk # 60 September 26 - 29

Make plans to attend the community events for each walk:
Thursday - Sponsor's Hour - 7:00 p.m.          Saturday - Candlelight - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday - Closing - 4:00 p.m.

Watch this Space for info on how to sign up for the prayer vigil

Pilgrim and Team Applications and this newsletter may be downloaded from the web at http://www.southernmarylandemmaus.com/
CLICK on “Documents, Lists and Newsletters”

Mailing Address for Southern Maryland Emmaus
P.O. Box 343
White Plains, MD 20695

Upcoming Events of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community

February 16, 2019 Gathering at Community With a Cause UMC (Breakfast)
Loffler Center 29105 Chancellor’s Run Rd. Great Mills, MD 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

See List of 2019 Gatherings/Events on page 6

4th Day Seminars

Seminars are held in the spring following the men’s and women’s walks. The next seminar date will be October 5th with the location to be announced. Attendance at a Fourth Day Seminar is required in order to sponsor pilgrims, and is highly recommended for those who wish to team.
Emmaus Shorts

Updates and Fixes and Scans! Oh My!

You’re in a hurry: lots to do: deadlines to meet; places to go and people to greet. You rush to your computer to send out that critical email only to be met by that sky blue screen with the words, “Hi, Windows Has Some Updates For you. This May Take a Few Minutes. Don’t Turn Off Your Computer.”

Before you can even react you see something like the screen in the picture at the end of this article. It’s a frustrating picture of a counter that is supposed to give you comfort that something is actually happening, and that the end might be near.

And so as the percentage slowly creeps above zero, you sit there adjusting your own schedule wondering why Windows can’t work the way you want when you want.

Now I understand as well as the next person that updates and fixes are needed to help keep our computers safe and running at peak efficiency. And who doesn’t like new features which can make our work a bit easier to accomplish? Still, it seems as if every time I want to do something, Windows tells me I need to wait. Hey, it’s my computer, why should I have to wait.

Patience is a virtue, I’m told, but it’s one virtue I have in very short supply. I once attended a spiritual retreat where everyone had an opportunity to step forward and silently give up something that was a burden to them by symbolically crumpling up a piece of paper on which the burden was written. I was in line with my paper on which was written “lack of patience”, and I remember wondering to myself what was taking the guy in front of me so long to finish.

Life is like that for us sometimes. We go to God with prayer and requests, and wonder why we are not given immediate answers. Isn’t God listening? Doesn’t He care? We know that all things are in God’s time not ours, but still we long for immediacy. God knows what we need and He knows when we need it. Isaiah 55:8-9 reminds us: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Sometimes to get the benefits we have to be patient and let the updates and fixes to our lives, as well as our computers, finish in their own time.

- Dan Brennan

On the Right Path

Deadline for next issue is May 1, 2019. The preferred method of submission is as an MSWord document file or a WordPerfect file (.rtf file also acceptable) sent via-e-mail to the following address: dbrennan6@verizon.net. 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.

“On the Right Path” is published by the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community. Dan Brennan Editor.
Resources on Our Web Site

Visit http://www.southernmarylandemmaus.com for these and other community resources:

- Southern Maryland Emmaus Leadership Roster & Board of Directors
- Southern Maryland Emmaus Prayer Points of Contact (PPOC)

On The Right Path

This is the newsletter of the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community. It is published quarterly, available online at our website: www.southernmarylandemmaus.com

The link to the newsletter is emailed to community members through PPOCs. If you do not have a PPOC, contact Shannon Davis at shannondavis@gmail.com

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

Prayer Coordinator

Shannon Davis
shannonhdavis@gmail.com
When we are at gatherings and events, please, stop by and introduce yourself, or say, “Hi,” if we already know one another. Let me know what you need to keep Emmaus on the tip of your tongue and on the top of your heart and mind. Ask me about my husband and family and all I have been doing since retirement. I love all these joys in my life. I would love to share about them with you as we get closer to each other and to Jesus Christ. See you soon…

"Wasn’t it like a fire burning within us when he talked to us"

If you have special requests for music you’d like to share personally or have the community use for gatherings and our walks, please let Jim Risley know at jrisley@mac.com.

New Board Has 1st Meeting

The new Board of Directors for the community had their first meeting on January 19. You can find the new board members and their respective roles listed on the last page of this edition.

Many of the board members are taking on dual roles this year, and all community members are invited to consider becoming a part of the administrative arm of Southern Maryland Emmaus. Without the work of this body, the community would not be able to continue our growth and ability to share the Emmaus experience with new pilgrims. How is God calling you to serve?

Friend Us on Facebook! Blairlee Owens - Administrator

My name is Blairlee Owens. I worship at Trinity United Methodist Church in Annapolis and I walked on Southern Maryland Emmaus Walk #30 and sat at the table of Ruth. (clap) I am the Administrator for our Southern Maryland Emmaus Community Facebook Page. (https://www.facebook.com/groups/154818234532686/) The page has been "up" for years, but there has been little activity on it. With this announcement, I am hoping that many of you will friend us! I plan on posting information from the Upper Room about Emmaus as well as information about the Southern Maryland Emmaus Community. By keeping the information current and up to date, as well as interesting, I hope to use this social media tool to help expand our communication reach to more members of the community. There are a few basic guidelines we will follow- like you do have to have attended a 3 day walk to be a friend of the page. All comments and info will be approved before being posted. Feel free to pass this info on to others in Southern Maryland Emmaus. Please like our Facebook page and send me any information you would like to me to put on our page. Please let me know if you have any questions!
## 2019 Schedule of Gatherings & Board Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Community with a Cause UMC</strong></td>
<td>29105 Chancellor's Run Road, Great Mills MD Loffler Center 9:00 am Breakfast - 10:00 am Gathering - Board Meeting at 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nichols Bethel</strong></td>
<td>1239 Murray Road, Odenton, MD 21113 5 pm Potluck - 6 pm Gathering - Board meeting at 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>First Saints Community Church Leonardtown</strong></td>
<td>25550 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 9:00 am Breakfast - 10:00 am Gathering - Board Meeting at 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>First Saints Community Church Leonardtown</strong></td>
<td>25550 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 9:00 am Breakfast - 10:00 am Gathering - Board Meeting at 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Olivet UMC Lusby</strong></td>
<td>13575 Olivet Road, Lusby, MD 20657 9:00 am Breakfast - 10:00 am Gathering - Board Meeting at 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>Olivet UMC Lusby - BOARD MEETING ONLY</strong></td>
<td>13575 Olivet Road, Lusby MD 20657 Board Meeting - 9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Olivet UMC Lusby - BOARD MEETING ONLY</strong></td>
<td>13575 Olivet Road, Lusby MD 20657 Board Meeting - 9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Gathering - Fall Walks</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>4th Day Gathering Location to be Announced</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>To be Announced</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Gathering</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
So there I was, sitting at a table going through my 4th Day Packet. The weekend was just about finished. The lows had been few and early in the weekend, and the highs had been many and were still washing over me. I was excited. I was filled with joy and expectation for the future. I didn’t want this feeling to end.

There were many things in the 4th Day Packet, but the one I reached for first was a checklist of ways in which I could become involved in sharing my Emmaus Walk going forward. It was a long list of “can you?, could you?, are you able to?” questions. As I worked my way down the list, I was shaking my head in dismay. My mind was saying, “No, I can’t do that. No, I don’t have that skill. No, that’s not me.”

I was just about to give up when I saw an item near the end of the list. It simply said, “Can you do standup comedy?” Now, I know my mother always told me never to sit around with my mouth wide open, but I couldn’t help it. For a moment I thought it must be a joke, someone’s way of poking fun at me. I couldn’t understand what this was doing on an otherwise sane list of skills. Humor was the one thing I knew I could do. God had given me a quick wit, and yes, I had used it during the weekend, but was it possible that somehow, in some way, The Lord was telling me that he could use my talent in a more productive way than just entertaining at meetings?

I could go on, but I was so anxious to give back to the Emmaus community a little of the love that I had received, that I made it a point to be the entertainment on the Women’s Walk that was to follow. I was so blessed being able to do that, and I would have left a satisfied and happy person, but there was one more thing to come. As I was leaving the room, one of the pilgrims stopped me and said something that changed my life. I did not know her, but she said to me, “I’ve never met anyone with the gift of humor before.” Once again, I forgot my mother’s warning and stood there with my mouth hanging open. “Gift of humor”? I had never thought of humor as one of God’s gifts.

Today, thanks to the revelation that accompanied my walk, I am a member of the Christian Comedy Association, perform when I have the opportunity, and have even written two books of humorous short messages (sort of daily devotionals for those who need a bit of humor). “Is God Poking Me?” and “It’s All About Harmony” are my “Observations From the Church Office” on the trials of daily life, and reminders that with God all things can be managed. I’d love to tell you more.

I Worship at La Plata United Methodist Church, I walked on Southern Maryland Emmaus #1 and sat at the table of Mark.
My name is Connie Wells; I attend First Saints Community Church, California Campus. I walked on SME #28 and sat at the table of Naomi (clap).

“I’ve Been Thinking…. Reflections, Prayers, and Meditations for a Meaningful Life” by Maria Shriver is a powerful and inspirational book.

Maria states “I believe it’s our life’s work to figure out who we are, what we think, what our gifts are, and how we can make a difference in this world”. I’m not one for ‘self-help’ books but I keep rereading portions of this book! Each chapter is a short read but allowed me the time to reflect and apply to my own life.

Meaningful quotations and prayers are included in each chapter with plenty of Maria’s personal reflections to think about. This book will definitely get you thinking about what is important to you and what makes for a meaningful life. Maria also stresses the importance of reevaluating your life – whether it’s on New Year’s or your birthday or while you’re sitting in the hospital with a sick friend.

While it is true that it can be painful with regret and coulda-woulda-shoulda it can also be incredibly liberating. Happy reading my friend!

De Colores!

Wearing Two Hats

Hello, my name is Dwaine Waltrip. I worship at God’s Special Church (Community with a Cause) in Great Mills, MD. I walked on Southern Maryland Emmaus Walk #43 and sat at the table of Thomas.

I am married to Marie Waltrip and have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. We have been members of God’s Special Church for 3 years. I am the leader of the Board of Trustees and participate in many of the events that go on at the church.

I served on 5 teams with Southern Maryland Emmaus. I was elected to the Southern Maryland Emmaus Board 2 years ago. I started out as the Assistant Community Lay Director. I just finished the year as the Community Lay Director. It was a very trying year, but we completed 2 successful walks. We just set up the new Board for the year on Saturday January 19. According to the Community By-Laws, as the Past Community Lay Director I would be a non-voting member of the Board.

My wife would tell you there is no way I could be quiet for that long.

This past November when we hoped to elect 5 new people to the Board, but of the numerous folks who were approached only 1 said yes. Not really an impressive number for a group with over 700 people on the books. That being said I have been asked and have accepted taking on the role of Community Registrar. I am charged with accepting Pilgrim Applications and making sure all the I’s are dotted and t’s are crossed, and making sure we have the number of pilgrims required to complete a walk. We are looking for 24 Pilgrims for each walk.

The Men’s walk this year is September 19 – 22, and the Women’s Walk will be September 26 – 29. It is never to early to get applications in. Let’s get started. We can’t move forward without these, so please try to call your potential pilgrims as soon as you can.

God Bless You and Keep You Safe. De Colores!
Team Selection Begins

Have you heard? The Fall 2019 Week-end Lay Directors (WLD) have been selected. Jim Harris from La Plata United Methodist Church will be the Men’s WLD and Kelly Imhof from Lexington Park United Methodist Church will be the Women’s WLD. Both Jim and Kelly are excited and ready to start the team selection process. If you are interested in serving on team this Fall, please fill out a team application (found on the website: southernmarylandemmaus.com), and return to a current board member, Jim or Kelly, or to either Sheila Hanson or myself and follow up with mailing a hard copy. (Southern Maryland Emmaus, P.O. Box 343, White Plains, MD 20695)

Several items the team selection committee considers when identifying a team:

a) Anyone with a team application on file will have priority consideration. Applications are kept on file for 3 years. Once you team, you are required to file a new application. PLEASE be sure and have your clergy sign your application before submitting.

b) Participation in an accountable/reunion group.

c) Active in the Southern Maryland Emmaus (SME) community (attendance at Candlelight, Closing, Gatherings, prayer vigil, making Agape, etc.)

d) Progressive Servanthood. Structure of the team fosters a progression of responsibility and an increasing level of leadership for each individual.

e) One-third Rule. Approximately one-third new Conference Team members, one-third second or third time members, and one-third veterans. Veterans provide continuity and confidence, while our newer members bring fresh energy and enthusiasm.

f) Sound balance of theological orientation and religious systems on team......diversity and unity of the church universal.

Not called to serve on team this Fall? Please pray for guidance in the team selection process; Jim and Kelly as WLDs, and the team selection committee in discerning God’s will for the weekends. All glory to God!

Sheila Hanson, peersey98@gmail.com or Connie Wells, conniewells@md.metrocast.net

Team Selection Co-Chairs

Open Invitation

Would you like to contribute to the fall walks in a unique and satisfying way? It has been our tradition to have men entertain at the special Saturday night dinner during the women’s walk, and women entertain during the men’s walk. We will have that opportunity once again on September 21, at West River for Men's Walk #59 and on September 28, for Women's Walk #60. The entertainment can be a solo or group performance (all participants must have completed an Emmaus, Cursillo, or similar walk). Entertainment does not have to be singing or music. We encourage creative ideas as long as they uplift the purpose of the walks. As a reminder, sponsors should only see their pilgrims at Closing, and therefore, should not volunteer to entertain.

As we all know, the schedule for Saturday is tight, and therefore the entertainment portion of the evening is limited to 15-20 minutes and takes place following the completion of the dinner in the dining hall.

You must be able to provide your own support, setup, and equipment needs as the team members will not be in a position to assist you.

If you are interested in providing this unique form of Agape, please contact me at 301-934-0334 or write me at dbrennan6@verizon.net.

Include the names of all who would be performing, a brief description of what you would be doing, and contact information please. First time performers are most welcome, but first come first served.

De Colores

Dan
Southern Maryland Emmaus Community
Reunion & Accountability Groups

The Reunion Group Coordinator, Ellen Bertelsen would like to hear about any active Groups in Southern Maryland. If you are having difficulty finding a Reunion Group, contact Priscilla Rollins. Experience the Fourth Day feeling.

Calvary UMC, Waldorf
Women Thursday - 5 p.m. location varies
contact Cheryl Merkle rdcemerk01@aol.com

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

First Saints UMC, California Campus
Women Mondays 5:00 p.m. (home setting)
contact Sheila Hanson perseey98@gmail.com

Good Shepherd UMC, Waldorf
Co-Ed Wednesday 6:00 p.m. at
restaurants call Linda Ford 301-645-6408
Men Thursday 6:00 p.m in Chapel.
Women Monday 7:00 p.m. (not at church) contact
Margaret Kolbe 301-870-8946
Women Thursday 6:00 p.m. (not at church)
contact Linda Adgate 301-645-3845 or
Becky Collier 301-932-3131

Grace Notes
Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. Contact Pam Grace
301-475-3446

Huntingtown UMC
Coed: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7pm at church
contact Jim D’Amico

La Plata UMC, La Plata
Women Thursday 6:00 p.m. at the church
Men Tuesday 6:00 p.m. at the church
Contact John Hastings ccso355@yahoo.com

Lexington Park UMC, Lexington Park
TBD

Can’t find a reunion group?
Consider starting a new one.
“Are 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.southernmarylandemmaus.com

Southern Maryland Emmaus
P.O. Box 343
White Plains, MD 20695

Southern Maryland Emmaus Board of Directors 2018

Community Lay Director/Chair - PJ Pitonyak
Assistant Community Lay Director - Cef Epps
Past Community Lay Director - Dwaine Waltrip
Treasurer - Lorenda Wilson
Secretary/Historian - Lorenda Walton
Community Spiritual Director - Open
Agape Coordinator - Len Lent
Asst. Agape Coordinator - Open
Team Selection - Sheila Hanson & Connie Wells

Community Events Coordinator/
Fourth Day Coordinator - Cef Epps
Sponsorships/Reunion Groups -
Terraine Arnold Duberry
Registrar/Pilgrim Selection - Dwaine Waltrip
Assistant Registrar - Open
Communications/Directory - Shannon Davis
Music Director - Jim Risley