



Community Humble Servants

Lay Director

Deanna Shotts

Spiritual Director

Paul Vick

Asst. Lay Director

Jane Hagler

Asst. Spiritual Director

Terri Milstead

Community Coordinator

Angel Rait

Treasurer

Jim Sims

Board Members

Jane Hagler
Stirling Rait
Sandy Parker
Jennifer Swinney
Bob DeHaven
Sherry Johnson
Clay Hammond
Danny Lemley
Julie English
Butch Fennell
Amy Crim
Jackie Mize
Wilson Webb
Ken Albrecht
Donna McDaniel
Mike Whitten

Literature

Patricia Bush

Supplies

Lane Berry

Community Agape

Bruce Parris

Name Tags

Dan Bell

Newsletter

Stephen Milstead

How is it with your soul?

By Deanna Shotts, Community Lay Director

This was a question John Wesley liked to ask people. There was a time when, if someone asked me this question, I wouldn't have had a clue about how to answer. But, this question is at the heart of Emmaus Reunion Groups, other true accountability groups and one-on-one spiritual direction. Over the years, participation in 2 or 3 different Reunion Groups and regular visits with a Spiritual Director have helped me understand the depth of the question and how to gauge my "soul health."

If your Cluster is like mine, the shut-down brought on by the pandemic did damage to Reunion or Accountability Group participation. Those who are tech savvy managed to continue meeting through Zoom or Google Meet. However, that still wasn't quite as intimate as sharing "face to face" and holding hands in prayer. The less tech savvy have probably lost that close bond and support which helps us persevere in grace during our Fourth Day.

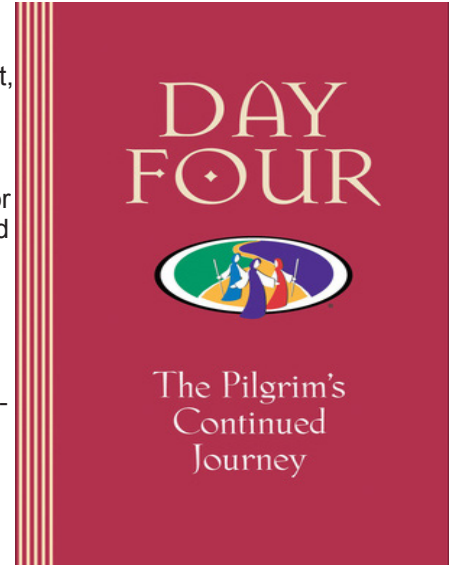
AL Walk to Emmaus is becoming revitalized again.

Whether your accountability group survived or lapsed due to Covid, I suggest that it's time for many of us to revitalize, re-form or form new Reunion/Accountability groups.

How do we do this? I invite Clusters and individuals to consider a few suggestions for encouraging Accountability Groups from the UR Community Manual.

1. Check out the book Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey for an excellent explanation and discussion of the accountability group concept, the group card format, criteria for forming groups and the characteristics of an effective group.

(Please See Shotts Page 2.)



Trust

By Paul Vick, Community Spiritual Director

"Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot." Proverbs 25:19 NLT

Trust is a gift given to each of us. It says I truly believe that you hold my greater good and will do all in your power to protect me and point me to blessings. Mutual trust strengthens and deepens relationships because honest open love is the motive. Mistrust is unhealthy and painful in relationships because it promotes constant questions of motives.



It's sad to acknowledge that we live in a time when Trust seems to be mortally wounded. Do you remember the quote that President Ronald Ragan used; "Trust but verify"? Yes, it is getting harder to trust as we consider all the angles and motives that present themselves daily. It seems as if somewhere just before adolescence sets in that we acquire mistrust. Small children are blessed with an abundance of trust. Then someone's actions betray that trust, and a shadow is cast on their young heart.

(Please See Vick Page 3.)

Shotts (continued from Page 1)

2. Emphasize accountability groups at Community Gatherings. Foster opportunities for uninvolved people to connect and form new groups. Consider having veteran accountability group members share their experience of the value of their groups.
3. Offer workshops on accountability groups during Community training sessions. Upper Room's The Group Reunion would be a good resource for a workshop.
4. Consider special times when several groups can meet simultaneously in different rooms at the same location then come together for a brief service of Holy Communion.
5. Do not limit participation to those who have been on an Emmaus Ministries event. Let these be spiritual support groups for any Christian on the journey of faith. The purpose of the group is to share faith and life in Christ NOT to talk about Emmaus.
6. If you're seeking to form a group, place an "ad" in your Cluster email (or church newsletter) including suitable meeting days and times as well as contact information.
7. Help form accountability groups among persons who have church, work, school, etc. in common.
8. A personal suggestion of mine would be to recruit a small group to do an 8-week study of The Class Meeting by Kevin M. Watson available from Seedbed or Amazon. I have read this and by the end, you will know just how to lead/participate in a John Wesley Class Meeting.

You may have other ideas for revitalization/forming accountability groups so share them with your Cluster Leader.

"How is it with your soul?" I invite you to take advantage of an accountability group to help you find an answer to this question.

Board Bits

Over the summer, the Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors has made some important revisions to the guidelines for Walks. These were approved in the September board meeting, so be sure to verify the revision date on your materials.

In response to sponsorship issues, the following statements have been added at the top of all committee guidelines:

While Emmaus is based in Wesleyan theology, we must always keep in mind and be sensitive to the fact that there will be pilgrims attending who are from varying faith backgrounds and church cultures.

We must also be sensitive to "unknown" victims of abuse, especially on women's walks, and conduct ourselves in ways that create a safe environment for all.

Also during this timeframe, coffee and tea makers were moved from the Myrtle Gordon Lounge (Refreshment Room) to the Dining Room which necessitated revising Food Service and Refreshments guidelines.

There is also a clarification of the Team Registration form, and again, be sure to verify the revision date.

In response to the recent outbreaks of Covid, the AEC Board has also issued a recommendation that the teams and Board Representatives for upcoming Walks have tests immediately prior to those weekends. There will also be test kits available in the Agape Room throughout the 72 hours for anyone feeling ill at any time.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
506	Oct 20-23	Rhonda DeHaven	Kelly Clem	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-DeKalb	Wilson Webb Butch Fennell
507*	Nov 10-13	Bruce Parris	Mac Buttram	Huntsville	Sherry Johnson Ken Albrecht
508	Feb 2-5	Suzanne Frazier	Terri Milstead	So. Shelby / B'ham East / B'ham South	Julie English Denise Cone
509*	Mar 2-5	Jeff Bowling	Alan Beasley	Franklin/Haleyville Marion	Jackie Mize TBA

***Men's Walk**

Reminder: Candlelight service begins at 7:45; Closing begins at 4:45.
Please remember that children are not to be present in Hutto or at meals during a walk!

Vick

(continued from Page 1)

One of the many things I have learned in ministry is peoples need for spiritual leaders to be completely honest with them. There are so many people who struggle with trust issues and are in search for relationships with pure motives.

Example: Do you remember when we use to have fun with our sponsored pilgrim by telling them they had better bring plenty of snacks, good hiking boots to the Walk. We even wanted the Assistant Table Leader's talk to be a surprise at the expense of honesty. I have served on more than one Spiritual Team that had to comfort a Pilgrim who was upset because dishonesty had found its way to their table. What was intended to be fun, and a surprise carried their mind back to past hurtful events. This should not be!

I am proud that our Alabama Emmaus Board is making progress to remove these stumbling blocks from the Walk to Emmaus experience. Please check with your cluster Lay Director for updated information regarding sponsorship, such as "So...You're Sponsoring a Pilgrim?" and the Sponsor's Checklist. A Pilgrim can only experience One Walk to Emmaus, may we strive to make it the very best and most meaningful that it can be for them!

Christ is counting of you. De Colores

Praying For You

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to members of the Emmaus Community and their families in the loss of loved ones.

To **Cameron Dodwell (214)** in the loss of her mother, Ann Mitchell

To **Bob Alexander (219)** and **Wendi Alexander (366)** in the loss of their son, David Brandley Alexander

To **Jim Nail (220)** in the loss of his father, James Presto Nail Sr

To **Sandra Burfield (179)** in the loss of her husband, **Dennis Burfield (280)**

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Office, P.O. Box 38
Cropwell, AL 35054
205-812-0345

Web: www.AlaEmmaus.org
email: Office@AlaEmmaus.org

Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 849 County Road 3926, Arley, AL 35541, or emailed to DHall92727@aol.com

Family Reunion

By Angel Rait, Community Coordinator

I was born and raised at Oakmont Methodist Church in Homewood. Recently I was invited to an "Oakmont Ladies Reunion" for all members from Oakmont's birth in the 1950's through today. It was definitely a "Closest to Christ" experience.

It was amazing that I not only instantly recognized people that I hadn't seen in 40 years, but I also remembered their names. There were lots of hugs and lots of catching up to do. Of course, we ate first, but afterwards there was a time for all of us to share memories. Some were funny stories of what we used to do. Some were sad as one stated her mom, a charter member, was in the final stage of life and under hospice care. But there was one constant thread – Oakmont taught us all what a church family looks like. It was amazing how we all agreed that when we moved away, we all looked for a church that could be our family like Oakmont.

It was at Oakmont that we learned you didn't have just one momma, there were plenty of momma's there to keep you straight. It was at Oakmont during our family retreats at Sumatanga that we formed even closer family bonds with each other. It was at Oakmont that we had "Confirmation Class" and fell in love with Jesus. It was at the death of so many of our family and friends that we returned to say our good-byes and reconnected with our church family. And when we all gathered a few weeks ago the years evaporated. We seemed to just pick up right where we left off, a family reunion!

That is the way it is at Emmaus, we become family on a Walk and when we return to Camp with a Pilgrim, or to serve, or to attend Candlelight we are reconnecting with our "family". I was able to connect with many Emmaus friends from my past when I attended Closing for a recent Walk. I also made new friends with the Pilgrims and Sponsors, and I was able to put faces with voices that I had talked with on the phone. Don't forget your Emmaus family. Reconnect and attend when you can. We have 2 Walks left this year for you to have a "family reunion". I hope to see you there. I've been wanting to catch up with you!!!

Angel Rait, sjc #173



**Alabama Emmaus Walk 506
October 20-23, 2022**

Lay Director Rhonda DeHaven - Perseverance

Asst. Lay Directors

Teresa Walker – 4th Day
Pam Myrick – Priority
Laurie Douthit
Sherri Watson
Barbara Harris
Angel Rait

Spiritual Director Kelly Clem – Means of Grace

Asst. Spiritual Directors

Dale Clem – Sanctifying Grace
Deb Welsh – Obstacles to Grace
Sherill Clontz – Justifying Grace
Carol Gullatt – Prevenient Grace

Music Chair Christa Neyman

Asst. Table Leaders

Sharla Parris – Priesthood
Betty Rhinehart – Life in Piety
Lisa Virciglio – Growth Through Study
Melissa Lett – Christian Action
Lisa Smith – Discipleship
Janet Jackson – Changing Our World
Jeanne Mabeus – Body of Christ

Table Leaders

Carol Scroggin
Laura Durbin
Paula Wright
Bobbi Reeves
Teresa Wilson
Gail Hiatt
Tammy Jones

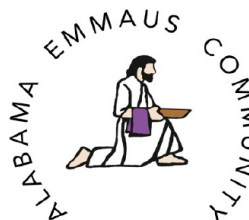
Board Reps Butch Fennell
Wilson Webb

Committees

Agape: Jacquie Clay 256-490-5008
Food Service: Leslie Colgrove 256-390-8318
Refreshments: Dana Williams 256-302-3337
Prayer Vigil: Crystal Wain 256-613-3005
Housing: Lane Berry 256-506-6233
Candlelight: Donald Douthit 256-504-9040
Clean-up: Joe King 256-706-0696
Closing: Jim Harris 256-582-7661
Entertainment: G Scroggin 706-766-4102
Follow-up: Chrissy Leonard 205-213-5747
Prayer Chapel: Jay Myrick 256-557-6868
Sponsors' Hour: Will Clay 256-393-1705
Worship: Debra Baker 256-558-1440
Photographer: Bob DeHaven 205-835-0686
Humble Servant: David Rhinehart 256-453-9230

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Dawn Todhunter	Alabaster	Terri Milstead
Georgia Carlee	Alexander City	John Hill
Brittney Bouldin	Boaz	Linda Bouldin
Kim Camper	Boaz	Pam Conner & Charley Conner
Malinda Moore	Boaz	Alesa Moore & Misty Brogdon
Brenda Samples	Boaz	Misty Brogdon & Tashina Dunn & Justin Dunn
Genise Zaiontz	Columbus, MS	Sarah Rickert & Ryan Rickert
Lisa Pierce	Four Oaks, NC	Conley Garmany
Eddie Nelson	Goodwater	Joanne Singleton & Butch Fennell
CJ Jones	Guntersville	Vicki Mann & Lee Mann
Heather Wingo	Hayden	Holli Martin
Beth Menke	Helena	Gene & Kristi Ingram and Ali White
Julie Townley	Helena	Gene & Kristi Ingram and Ali White
Donna Johnson	Huntsville	Pat Thorn
Kimberly Kern	Huntsville	Karen & Gary Kern and Nancy Nolan
Judy Shadrick	Jacksons Gap	Louise Tapley & Reba Culpepper
Christy Hill	Loganville , GA	Misty Brogdon
Lisa Crump	Meridianville	Ann Turner
Paula Dame	New Market	Ann Turner
Vinetta Blow	Odenville	Pam Falbo & Fred Falbo
Susan DeLisle	Odenville	Pam Falbo & Angel Bailey
JoJo Henry	Pinson	Holli Martin
Keylee Allison	Red Bay	Kelly & Sally Moore and Jolene Stockton
Tarsha Tubbs	Sawyer ville	Portia Shepherd & Sherrie Hiatt
Shiela Giddens	Sylaucauga	Betty Hamilton & Vic Hamilton
Dammy Akimmiyi	Tuscaloosa	Norma Lemley & Danny Lemley
Stephanie Childers	Vina	Sheilah Wiginton & Rodney Stidham



**Alabama Emmaus Walk 507
November 10-13, 2022**

Lay Director Bruce Parris - Perseverance

Asst Lay Directors

Tom Panucci
John Cole - Priority
Bill Beaty – Fourth Day
Lee Riddle
Rolo Weaver
Vann Bragg

Spiritual Director Mack Buttram – Means of Grace

Asst Spiritual Directors

Chris Whitehead - Justifying Grace
Todd Owen – Sanctifying Grace
Vickie Mann – Obstacles to Grace
Bill Crosby – Preventing Grace

Music Chair Jack Lawrence

Asst Table Leaders

Billy Bell – Body of Christ
Michael Darnell - Discipleship
George Bracey - Piety
Chris Comer – Changing Our World
Rusty Congo - Priesthood
Teek Patnaik – Christian Action
Dick Richardson – Growth Through Study

Table Leaders

Spencer Pendley
Chad Steed
Jason Dunham
Michael Seavers
Robert Pendley
Scott Ray
Gene Ingram

Board Reps Sherry Johnson
Ken Albrecht

Committees

Agape:	Jana Killen	256-337-3402
Food Service:	Tim Cotton	256-684-9600
Refreshments:	Sarah Withrow	256-337-1147
Prayer Vigil:	Joyce Smith	256-714-8689
Housing:	Linda Case	256-603-4683
Candlelight:	Al Killen	256-426-3910
Clean-up:	John Newton	256-783-3432
Closing:	Melissa Harkins	256-698-1940
Entertainment:	Kathy Hall	256-810-0894
Follow-Up:	Sandra Jones	256-479-2832
Prayer Chapel:	Grant Preston	256-714-6563
Sponsor's Hour:	Susan Lewis	256-652-1960
Worship:	Beth Reid	256-694-0908
Photographer:	Terry Lewis	256-755-1821
Humble Servant:	Anne Parris	256-658-3821

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Joe Edmondson	Albertville	Tammy Edmondson
Jerome Malone	Athens	Glenn Stokes
Hilton Cawthon	Birmingham	Tom & Stephanie Cawthon
Chris DePew	Birmingham	Liz Walker & Taylor Vlack
Jeffery Smith	Boaz	Lori McKoy Smith
Mark Black	Boaz	Donna Black
Cole Harrison	Caledonia, MS	Sarah Rickert
Frank Verdi	Chelsea	Steve Smith and Doug Brewer
Joseph Marcrum	Cordova	Rodney O'Bryant
Jeff Keith	Decatur	Leslie Comer
Nicholas George	Hamilton	Deanna Shotts
Tim Floate	Huntsville	Bruce Wallace & Layne Salvador
Lee Fulcher	Huntsville	Doreen Fulcher & Amie L. Hope
Richard Leland	Huntsville	John Newton & Steve McCurry
Jason Page	Huntsville	John Newton
David Huffstutler	McCalla	Matthew Kilpatrick
Jeff Dame	New Market	Ann Turner
Ben Keener	Oneonta	Joe Hastings & Cindy Hastings
Stephen Apt	Trinity	Glenn Stokes
Edward Dennison	Tuscaloosa	Chuck Bush
Zac Langer	Tuscaloosa	Randy Smith
Grayson Wright	Tuscaloosa	John Simmons and Patti S. Wright
Marc Florence	Woodland	Paul Vick

