



Vol. 19 No. 6

Alabama Emmaus Community News

# The Grapevine

October 2020

## Community Humble Servants

**Terrie Alexander**  
Lay Director

**Gary Formby**  
Spiritual Director

**Teresa Holderfield**  
Asst. Lay Director

**John Simmons**  
Asst. Spiritual Director

**Angel Rait**  
Community Coordinator

**Jim Sims**  
Treasurer

**Donna Ambrosius**  
**Debra Baker**  
**Linda Case**  
**Karen Cotton**  
**Tami Glenn**  
**Teresa Holderfield**  
**Sherry Lockhart**  
**Dianna McQueen**  
**Jackie Mize**  
**Brian Moore**  
**Randy Nelson**  
**Kay Parker-Phillips**  
**Jaime Rickert**  
**Deanna Shotts**  
**Melanie Skillman**  
**Paul Webb**  
Board Representatives

**Patricia Bush**  
Literature

**Bob Manney**  
Supplies

**Bruce Parris**  
Community Agape

**Dan Bell**  
Name Tags

## God remains present, same

By **TERRIE ALEXANDER**  
Lay Director

Dear Alabama Emmaus Family,  
I hope and pray that this letter finds you happy, healthy, and very blessed because I have truly been blessed during this term of being your Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director.

I know it does sound hard to believe that I would consider myself blessed in this time of quarantine, COVID-19, postponing, and transitioning. The reason I can say this is because during all these unknowns or not knowing what would happen next, I can say that I never felt alone. The God that we serve as members of this wonderful Alabama Emmaus Family keeps reminding me that during all the changes and ups and downs God is always the same in the past, present, and future. So no matter what unknowns we face, we always know that God is with us.

I was reminded of the many times in my life that I thought the joy of life had been ripped away from me, but nothing, not even this COVID-19 pandemic can take away my joy that comes from the Lord.

As I say good-bye in this last article that I

will write for *The Grapevine* as your Community Lay Director, I think about how I only served one year and there are so many of you who have served in positions for several years. There are people in permanent positions such as Bob Manney in Walk Supplies and Greg Spoon as *Grapevine* editor who are leaving their permanent positions this year, and I thank them for the selfless giving of their time. I also thank those in the past that have served for years and the persons still serving. It humbles me when I think of how they have given of themselves and used their gifts and graces to further the Kingdom of God.

This is just an example of all the wonderful people of the Alabama Emmaus Community who are willing to follow wherever God leads them wholeheartedly. I have been blessed to observe how the joy of the Lord shines through them in all that they do for others.

I look forward to seeing you shine in the light of God's radiance as we walk through these transitional times together and our walks resume.

DeColores!  
Terrie Alexander  
Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director

## Faith leads all into future

By **GARY FORMBY**  
Spiritual Director

Faith is the, "assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen," at least as Hebrews 11:1 claims. We know a little about faith. When we go through a green light, we have faith that the driver at the same intersection is going to stop at her red light! When we sit in a chair, we have faith the chair will hold us. In the physical realm

our faith is usually warranted although not always. In the spiritual realm we often think there is not as much there to warrant our faith because it's invisible. This is not the case.

When I studied with Jim Flemming in Israel, the most interesting insight I gained had to do with the Hebrew concept of time, their view of past, present and future. For us the future is before us and the past is behind

us; not so in the ancient Hebrew mindset. For them it was the past that is before you, the future behind you! How could this be? Here's the deal. The ancient people saw themselves *backing* into the future because of course you can't see the future. It is obviously behind you. However, as they backed into the future they could see their past, which was laid out before them, (Please See Formby Page 2.)

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE...**

All 2020 Walks have been postponed until 2021.  
Please see the listing on Page 2 for a  
TENTATIVE schedule at this time.

## Hearts hold us for now

By ANGEL RAIT  
Community Coordinator

Last month I shared my 7-year-old GRANDson Jack with you. This month I want to share with you what happened yesterday with my 2-year-old GRANDdaughter, Georgia Grace. WOW, a 2-year-old can take you on some wild and crazy adventures!!

After I picked Georgia up from pre-school, she decided to play "school" with all her stuffed animals. She was singing and playing school with them as they were all lined up on the table. Then she fussed at Goofy for hitting, and he had to go to time out. Next was Mickey, and then, one by one, all the animals went to time out.

Hitting and then being sent to timeout happens to be a big 2-year-old activity, which we have experienced also!

So this BeBe thought it was time to have a talk with these "stuffies" about their actions! I explained to them that hitting is not nice, and we need to be nice to our friends. We love our friends and hitting hurts, so instead of hitting we need to hold their hands. I also explained that is what Jesus wants us to do. He loves us because we are His children. Jesus wants us to hold hands with our friends.

At that moment, little Georgia started singing "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," a song I sing to her every time I am putting her to bed. She sang every word. I couldn't speak; my heart was so full of love for this precious 2-year-old. Out of the mouth of babes..... I hugged her, and told her thank you for sharing that song with her babies.

This made me start thinking and wondering about when I'm gone, will Georgia remember that song? Will she remember the day that her "stuffies" were misbehaving and she sang that promise to them? Probably not, but I hope she remembers that in the midst of hurt and hitting, we can love our friends and hold their hand.

This is what helps me in these pandemic times we are going through. Although we are apart, we can still love our friends and hold them in our hearts. That is where Emmaus is right now, in our hearts. All of us hold a special memory of Emmaus and how it changed us for the better. I like sharing what I learned with others with joy, encouragement, and hope for our future.

I also look forward to being back in community with Emmaus friends and holding their hands. It's different right now with mask mandates and no hand holding! But God has a plan and we must be faithful to His promise. Whatever He has in store for us, it will be more than we ever expected. Please continue to pray for Emmaus and Camp Sumatanga. God has a plan that I pray includes being with our friends soon and holding hands once again!!!

DeColores!  
Angel Rait, sjc #173

### *The Grapevine*

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### TENTATIVE 2021 Schedule

WALK	DATE	GENDER
494	Feb 4-7	W
495	Mar 4-7	M
496	Apr 8-11	W
497	May 20-23	M
498	Jun 17-20	W
499	Jul 15-18	W
500	Aug 12-15	M
501	Aug 26-29	W
502	Sep 9-12	W
503	Oct 14-17	M

**Any changes to this tentative schedule will be announced at a later date should a need arise to alter is further.**

## Formby

(Continued from Page 1)

especially everything God had done in the past. As they backed into the future in sheer faith, they did so with great faith because they could always see their extraordinary past, everything God had done even in the worst of times.

The past was always *before* them to see (remember) even as they backed into the unforeseeable future.

While we can't see the future, we can see God's creation, the power of the covenant his-

tory between God and Israel, the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and the extraordinary difference Christ has made in the lives of those who have had faith in him. Faith backs confidently into the future trusting that what God did in the past God will do one more time, for us. So, Back Up in Faith!

As we close out our very unusual 2020 in the Alabama Emmaus Community, I so can't wait to see what our trustworthy God is going to do next!

### *Praying for You*

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

To the family of **Barbara Orr (308)**

To the family of **Tommy Yates (490)**

To **Kay Jordan (142)** in the loss of her husband **Johnny Jordan (144).**

To **Lisa Fornwalt (311)** in the loss of her father, Kenneth Mizzell

To **Tawana Lowery (252)** in the loss of her mother, Elizabeth Greer

To **Chuck Terrell (316)** in the loss of his father, Edward Terrell