



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

All Shall Be Well

By Deanna Shotts, Community Lay Director

“All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

-Julian of Norwich

I love this quote because it reminds me that no matter what happens, God will take care of those who trust in Him. It gives me hope in a God of love who created all things and called them good. These words encouraged me as AL Emmaus has continued work to recover from the effects of the COVID shutdown.

This is the final *Grapevine* article I will write as AL Emmaus Community Lay Director. I have been honored and humbled to serve. When I attended Walk #60 over 30 years ago, I would never have dreamed that God would call me to make a talk much less lead a Walk. The idea of serving as I have this year was totally beyond my imagination as well as my comfort zone. He has taught me things this year that I would not have learned (about myself, others, and His faithfulness) if I had not been willing to let Him stretch me. Many times this year, I've whispered to myself, "all shall be well."

For the Board, this has been a year full of ten successful Walks, difficult decisions, surprises, and celebrations. While Walks have been smaller in number of Pilgrims, this has been a blessing as the smaller Table groups allowed Pilgrims more time to share deeply. The ALD's didn't have to frantically "herd a bunch of cats" to keep things on schedule. The worship times were more intimate.

As the year went by, we saw improvement in responsible sponsorship, recognized the 500th AEC Walk and celebrated the 40th birthday of the AEC. Thanks to the generosity of you, the AE Community, improvements have been made to Hutto that will benefit all who use the facility. **(Please See Shotts Page 2.)**

A Christmas Memory

By Paul Vick, Community Spiritual Director

Wow! Where has the year gone? It seems that as we came out of the COVID pandemic we were launched into warp-speed. Christmas 2022 is upon us! We are entering into a cherished time of the year filled with decorations, gatherings, gifts, and the recognition of Advent (the coming of Christ). Other than the account in Luke 2, my next favorite Christmas story is a short story by Truman Capote; "A Christmas Memory."

Capote writes of his early memories as a boy named Buddy growing up in rural Monroeville, Alabama. Although the circumstances were different, Buddy and I share some similar influences. The story centers around an elderly relative named Sook who was about as child-like-minded as little six-year-old Buddy. Sook's approach to Christmas giving reminds me of a simpler time when intentional giving of simple yet sacrificial items was precious. Sook and Buddy remind me of the humor of rural country living, as most everything contributed to the scrapping-up of enough money for presents.

For me, as a small boy, it was finding soft-drink bottles on the roadside to be redeemed for a few cents each at a country store. For Buddy of Monroeville it was promoting his family's three-legged biddy chicken in his and Sook's personal freak show **(Please See Vick Page 3.)**

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New chairs and improvements to the dining and refreshment rooms are just a few to name. By the time we open for Walk #508 in February of 2023, there will be new doors across the front entrance of Hutto thanks to the AEC.

You may have noticed we refer to our community as The Alabama Emmaus Community or The AEC for short. Did you know that the official name registered with the AL Sec. of State and the Jefferson Co. Probate Court is: The Alabama Emmaus Community of the North Alabama Conference, United Methodist Church. That's a mouthful! Due to the facts that Emmaus International and our community are independent, ecumenical entities that are not funded or governed by The United Methodist Church nor the North Alabama Conference, it has been suggested that our community's name be legally shortened to simply The Alabama Emmaus Community as we typically use. One of our Board members, an attorney, has graciously searched and reserved that name. There will be more for the Board to do. If the 2023 Board decides to pursue this, there will be a time when you, the community, will have a chance to vote on this. For now, you can pray about it.

Now I ask that you welcome the AE Community Lay Director for 2023, Jane Hagler. Jane brings knowledge and wisdom from years of experience with Emmaus. Please continue to support her and the AE Board of Directors and the Emmaus Ministry with your prayers, gifts, service, Pilgrim sponsorship, support of your Clusters, and attendance at Candlelight's. Our world needs changing one person, one family, one church, one community at a time. Emmaus is one of God's instruments for making these changes.

Remember: "Christ is counting on you!"

Have a very Blessed Christmas and New Year!

By the Numbers

By Angel Rait, Community Coordinator

This has been a wonderful year with Emmaus. Our year looked like this:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| W - #498 25 attended | M - #503 23 attended |
| W - #499 19 attended | W - #504 19 attended |
| M - #500 21 attended | M - #505 23 attended |
| W - #501 21 attended | W - #506 25 attended |
| W - #502 19 attended | M - #507 16 attended |

We are off to a good start for 2023:

- W - #508 24 Applications
- M - #509 20 Applications
- W - #510 24 Applications

If your church is looking for more people to be involved in leadership, Emmaus is a great place to start with that. Let's all work together to make this the best year for Emmaus. Applications can be found on our web site, and don't forget they are fillable on line! When you decide to be a Sponsor, you will receive a Sponsor Checklist to help you to remember your responsibilities. If you have any questions, just give me a call or an email. You will make my day!

Blessings and DeColores,

Angel Rait, sjc
 Community Coordinator
 PO Box 38 Cropwell AL 35054
 205-812-0345
 office@alaemmaus.org

<h2>Upcoming Walks</h2>					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
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 Linda Hall
510	Mar 23-26	Crystal Whitehead	Abi Carlisle Wilke	Cheaha East Alabama	Butch Fennell Judy Anderson
511	Apr 20-23	Kathy Hall	Tony Jones	Cullman Blount	Amy Crim David Speegle
<p>*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!</p>					

Vick

(continued from Page 1)

at a nickel for adults and two cents for children. The humor of the picture painted in my mind reminds me of my uncle George who lived with us. He and Sook's mindset had lots in common. As a matter of fact, Uncle George actually called both my sisters by the same name "Sook" and all five of us boy youngins he called "Snapper-Jack."

Each year as I reread "A Christmas Memory," I give witness to unselfish giving, the excitement of only receiving a few meager gifts and the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas (the coming of Christ) seems to have somehow changed from God with us to us with merchants. From a very few heart-felt meager gifts to overindulgence. As the Advent of God seems to have lessened in the conversations of our gatherings and replaced with sports and politics. Yet for Sook, Buddy and those who love His appearing, Jesus fills all that is missing in life and life beyond life.

Christmas and the gift of life is about seeing the Advent of God. To quote an elderly joy-filled lady named Sook as she and Buddy lay in tall grass looking up at their home-made Christmas gifts of kites flying against the blue sky. She said to her Buddy: "I've always thought a body would have to be sick and dying before they saw the Lord. I'll wager at the very end a body realizes the Lord has already shown Himself... Just what they've always seen, was seeing Him. As for me, I could leave the world with today in my eyes."



Friends, the Advent of God is right now! His prevenient Grace has always been present in our lives. My prayer is that we will take the time to enjoy this moment of Christmas.

De Colores

The Grapevine

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 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

2023 Walk Schedule

<u>WALK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
508	Feb 2-5	Women
509	Mar 2-5	Men
510	Mar 23-26	Women
511	April 20-23	Women
512	May 4-7	Men
513	Aug 10-13	Men
514	Sep 14-17	Women
515	Sep 28-Oct 1	Women
516	Oct 19-22	Men
517	Nov 9-12	Women

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 **Joan Jones (249)**

To **Kim Scott (233)** in the loss of her mother, and to **Sylvia Wesson (39)** in the loss of her sister, **Myra Goss (52)**

To **Terri Alexander (195)** in the loss of her mother, Millie Powell

To **Rita Romine (231)** in the loss of her mother, Janet Scott; and in the loss of her brother, Randy Scott

To the family of **Rhonda Nelson (433)**

To **Patricia Culberson (31)** in the loss of her husband, **Rev. Neal Culberson (30)**

To **Tommy Lee (358)** in the loss of his wife, **Sylvia Holman Lee (278)**

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 508
February 2-5, 2023**

Lay Director Suzanne Frazier - Perseverance

Asst Lay Directors

Rhonda Rush
Kristi Akin - Priority
Beckee Blakmon - Fourth Day
Donna Ambrosius
Susan Sheffield
Susie Simmons

Spiritual Director Terri Milstead - Means of Grace

Asst Spiritual Directors

Sam Frazier - Justifying Grace
Angela Martin - Sanctifying Grace
Bob Murray - Obstacles to Grace
Phyllis Riddle - Prevenient Grace

Music Chair Charlie Beavers

Asst Table Leaders

Tammy Carpenter - Body of Christ
Liz Walker - Discipleship
Lisa Verciglio - Piety
Roxanne Edsall - Changing Your World
Julia Rudd - Priesthood of All Believers
Lisa Brown Edmonson - Christian Action
Amanda Moore - Study

Table Leaders

Olodade Erinkitola
Vicki Hall
Vicki Parsons
Lucy Thrailkill
Wendy Wright
Wendy Farmer
Lynn Carmichael

Board Reps Julie English
Denise Cone

Committees

Agape: Melissa Jarrell 205-533-0501
Food Service: Brian Ledlow 205-516-6936
Refreshments: Kay Davis 256-627-8438
Prayer Vigil: Monica Gallups 205-516-4563
Housing: Bill Rush 205-612-9397
Candlelight: Susan Blackmon 205-438-8286
Clean-up: Ted Hagler 205-985-9608
Closing: Judy Vaughn 205-500-1800
Entertainment: Kay Davis 256-627-8438
Follow-Up: Sandra Oden 205-541-2457
Prayer Chapel: Vicki Herring 205-305-0587
Sponsor's Hour: Ruth Ann Clay 205-335-8649
Worship: Pam Branham 205-837-2708
Photographer: Bill Rush 205-612-9397
Humble Servant: Jim Frazier 205-919-8931

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Shirley Peek	Arab	RoxAnne Henderson & Annette Simmons
Lora Parker-Gayler	Dallas, GA	Chrystal H. Whitehead
Britney Underwood	Florence	Will & April Vaden
Brilee Breidenbach	Foley	Amy Talton
Eisha Augustus	Gadsden	Crystal Wain
Erika Westcott	Gadsden	Colin Cotton & Ted Anderson
Regina Beams	Gordo	Kenneth (Ken) Baines
Cindy Giddens	Helena	Delona Nolen
Jennifer Parrish	Helena	Delona Nolen
Julia Hale	Hillsboro	Kay Seale
Shea Brennaman	Huntsville	Spencer Pendley & Robert Pendley
Melissa Findley	Huntsville	Tana Lane
Arlene Zanolunghi	Huntsville	Sandra May and Sarah Melendez
Patsy Newell	Locust Grove, GA	Cindy Cash & Judy Bailey & Teresa Holderfield Walker
Deborah Keener	Oneonta	Joe Hastings & Cindy Hastings
Chris McMahon	Pelham	Joanne Bailey & Jack Bailey
Renee Bellew	Rainbow City	Cindy Cash & Judy Bailey & Teresa Holderfield Walker
Donna Sykes	Russellville	Susan Godsey & Jyl Hamilton
Maria Caldwell	Tuscaloosa	Holly McCollum & Kacie Davis
Lisa McGuire	Tuscaloosa	Danielle Eppes
Lauren White	Tuscumbia	Lori Mills & Hal Mills
Nannette Brooks	Valley	Tim & Terri Alexander

