

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 16 No. 2

April 2018

Community Humble Servants

Bill Beatty
Lay Director

Chuck Worley
Spiritual Director

Linda Holt
Asst. Lay Director

Tim Alexander
Asst. Spiritual Director

Angel Rait
Community Coordinator

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Treasurer

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Rita Speegle
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Katie Woodward
Board Representatives

Kathy Hall
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Jennifer Swinney
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

Bloom and grow each day

By **BILL BEATTY**
Lay Director

April is the month of awakening. The world around us is blooming out with new life and excitement. This month also brings our most wondrous Easter celebration of remembrance and renewal. We pause to remember the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus paid because of His love for us and through this we experience the renewal of our Christian faith. Christ asked each of us to follow Him (Mark 1:17), love one another (Luke 10:27), and to feed His sheep (John 21:17).

I believe this is what we are doing in the Emmaus Community when we sponsor new pilgrims. There is no better way

April is a month of awakening!

that I can follow Him, love others, and feed His sheep than to invite someone to attend an Emmaus Walk. I am constantly inspired by the stories that are told by so many about the life changing experience the Holy Spirit has brought to them through their walk. This renewal has allowed them to unload bad baggage from their lives, restore relationships, bring families together, heal wounds and best of all reconnect them to Christ.

Emmaus Walks not only renew a person's relationship with our Lord but also can strengthen and rise up new lead-

ers in our churches. Another bonus is that new members are added to the roles of our Clusters. This is a win win deal! If a Cluster seriously wants to improve their direction then the clear answer is through sponsorship. A dedicated year of sponsorship and training can change the course of a Cluster forever.

It starts with one member of a cluster sponsoring one pilgrim. We can "bloom and grow"... we just have to follow Him by loving and feeding His sheep.

DeColores!
Bill Beatty Walk #280

Reflection on April 27, 2011

By **CHUCK WORLEY**
Spiritual Director

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14.

Dr. Sam Morris led a group of us from the North Alabama Conference to the mountainside to which Jesus retired in order to pray.

According to Sam the place is called Eremos Heights. Eremos, as a place name, means a quiet, tranquil retreat.

Several of us from the North Alabama Conference were privileged to stand in that place

where Jesus prayed. Just as when he stood praying a storm blew across the Sea of Galilee. Looking across the sea we saw what Jesus saw: a boat on the water.

April 27, 2011, has come and gone, yet time and again each year we will see the destruction of the storms of 2011.

We will re-live the experience through our memories of the event and through the images captured by the media.

As you remember, look for Jesus walking in the midst of the storm. See Jesus walking among the frightened, wounded, distraught people he loves.

In every storm of life seek him and you will find him walking with you, reaching out, calming the storm.

In the midst of every storm he will be there. He is with us always even unto the end of the age.

Keeping God in the biscuits

By ANGEL RAIT
Community Coordinator

A visiting priest was attending a men's breakfast in Ohio farm country. He asked one of the older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The Priest opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the Priest was getting worried. However, without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on. "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour either."

Just as the priest was ready to stand and stop the blessing, the farmer continued. "But Lord, when You mix 'em all together and bake 'em, you get biscuits, and I do love fresh biscuits! So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets challenging, when we don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till You are done mixin', and be confident that the outcome will be somethin' even better than biscuits. Amen."

I'm sharing this story with you because it reminds me so much of "The Emmaus Walk." A Walk doesn't just happen - there is a process, and some parts of the process are more "likable" than others.

There is so much importance in making sure that the Pilgrims of Walk #476 have the same experience as Walk #1. To make that happen, you have to follow the recipe. Sometimes you have to "massage and knead the dough" (the Walk) and let it patiently sit and rise for a time.

A time of letting the Holy Spirit do its job in preparing the team and Pilgrims for the Walk. If any step is left out, the "yeast" (God) doesn't have a chance to rise to the top, defeating the whole purpose for the Walk.

It's all about God and His Mercy and His Love and His Grace; it is not about us!!! Isn't it awesome that God's plan is ALWAYS better than ours and ALWAYS at the right time? We desire for everyone to have the "Emmaus Experience," but we have to remember to let God take control and do the mixin', and especially remember to patiently allow Him to RISE!!

Angel Rait, sjc Walk #173,
Table of Martha
Pell City UMC

The Grapevine

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Walk offers short course, refresher

"The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day retreat sponsored by the Upper Room, a division of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of the walk is to renew local church congregations by offering a "short course in Christianity" and provides a model for Christian accountability groups.

It is intended for established Christians who want a refresher in the basic tenets of our faith and an opportunity for spiritual development through the sharing of God's grace."

You will find the above paragraph at the top of our Emmaus application. It's in very small print, and how many of us have actually read this or even know that it is there.

The Emmaus movement was brought to Alabama in 1981. In order for the Emmaus movement to be what it was brought to Alabama to be, we should use the above mission statement in choosing our pilgrims.

The pilgrims we sponsor should be sponsored for the right reasons. The Walk weekend is not for drug rehab, marital counseling or family reunions. These are needs that should be met at the local church and not on an Emmaus weekend. Emmaus is for the Grace, Love and Mercy of God to be seen and shared through the Community.

There are openings on walks for the remainder of the year. We ask you to prayerfully consider sponsoring someone who you may have been thinking of sharing this experience.

Remember each walk needs a minimum of 21 pilgrims. Walks 477-481 have not been invited yet; invitations are sent two months before the Walk.

#476	May 24-27	20 women scheduled
#477	Aug 9-12	14 men scheduled
#478	Sep 20-23	9 women scheduled
#479	Oct 11-14	2 women scheduled
#480	Oct 25-28	1 woman scheduled
#481	Nov 8-11	4 men scheduled

Re-read that statement at the top of this article. Many people have been truly blessed by their three-day weekend. Eyes have been opened and lives have been changed by the Holy Spirit at work in each and every walk.



"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

-Ephesians 2:8

Sponsoring requires careful planning

Most Pilgrims arrive at camp without a lot of knowledge about what goes on during the weekend of a Walk. Amazing!!! There are lots of reasons why - some better than others! For one thing, good sponsors don't want to color their Pilgrim's experience with details of their own.

And, they are careful not to spring any of the wonderful surprises. So - why is it that too many Pilgrims are later treated as if their weekend was spent in a Holiday Inn Express? It's as if they magically know how to turn around and sponsor someone else!!!

Granted, the ride home is a great time to fill in the blanks. But think about it. These folks have not even begun to build a frame of reference for what they are hearing. How can they nail all that information down?

And - what about all our Emmaus jargon? How can it make sense to them yet? Besides - they want to be telling their sponsor what *they* experienced!

When a first-time sponsor goes it alone, there can be difficult results. Real life happenings include sponsors who replaced a Pilgrim who couldn't go at the last minute with someone who had never even applied.

Another time team members, who didn't realize that sponsoring a Pilgrim on a Walk they were working is ill advised, were about to bring the Pilgrim with them early and let them stay in the sponsors' work area. Fortunately, they asked someone first.

There is a way things work. And like anything new - a new job, a new baby, a new car - it takes some time living with and experiencing new things to really understand how they work. That's why a few years back the Board of Directors required each of us who is sponsoring for the first time to have a co-sponsor. This can be our own sponsor, or anyone with a lot of good experience. After all, there were two on the road to Emmaus.

Save the Date...August 10-11!!

Watch for Community Training Event information
in the April issue of *The Grapevine*!

UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPIRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
476	May 24-27	Kay Davis	Gary Formby	BE/BS/SS	Denise Cone/ Jerry Nelson
477	Aug 9-12	Butch Fennell	Mike Densmore	E. Ala/Cheaha	Brenda Kent/ Willie Johnson
478	Sep 20-23	Pat Putnam	TBA	Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton	Lynda Hall/ Joan Cleveland
479	Oct 11-14	Shirley Hayes	TBA	Cullman/Blount	Rita Speegle/ Bob Manney
480	Oct 25-28	Kim Henry	TBA	Shoals/Moulton/ Decatur/Athens	Chad Bottcher/ Patsy Killen
481	Nov 8-11	Bobby Jones	TBA	Tuscaloosa/WA	Katie Woodward/ Terrie Alexander

*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!

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 476
May 24-27, 2018**

Lay Director	Kay Davis (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Suzanne Frazier (Priority) Rhonda Rush (Fourth Day)
Spiritual Director	Gary Formby (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Ruth Grisson (Prevenient Grace) John Simmons (Justifying Grace) Terri Milstead (Sanctifying Grace) Sherry Harris (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Linn Lower
Asst. Table Leaders	Wannell Scott (Priesthood) Dianne Fisher (Study) Pam Townsend (Discipleship) Lyn Cosby (Changing Our World) Beckee Taunton (Christian Action) Suzanne Scott-Trammell (Body of Christ) Donna Ambrosius (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Sandra Oden Susan Sheffield Susan Day Revonda Twesme Carol Rayfield Lynn Carmichael Vicki Hall
Board Rep.	Denise Cone, Jerry Nelson

Committees

Agape:	Fred Clay	205-355-3546
Meal Service:	Lee Townsend	205-837-2708
Refreshments:	Brian Bedlow	205-516-6936
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Debbie Alexander	205-441-2333
Housing:	Bill Rush	205-290-0092
Candlelight:	John McQueen	205-965-9640
Clean-up:	Steve Duffie	205-835-3823
Closing:	Ted Hagler	205-985-9608
Entertainment:	Julie Englieh	205-901-0112
Follow-up:	Martin von Hermann	205-223-8588
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Chuck Ferguson	205-491-1634
Sponsors' Hour:	Phyllis Riddle	205-213-5462
Worship:	Jane Hagler	205-985-9608
Photographer:	Bill Rush	205-290-0092
Humble Servant:	Mike Harris	256-606-0940

Name	City	Sponsor
Angela Sorter	Albertville	Barbara Harris & Paula Warnes
Donna Wilks	Arab	Brittany Loftis & Vivian McRae
Tracy Garrett	Arab	Brittany Loftis & Vivian McRae
Melissa Lett	Attalla	Teresa Holderfield
Lisa Comer	Blountsville	Rosa Baty
Leslie Waldrop	Cherokee	Ralph Waldrop
Holly Cole	Cleveland	Peggy Ellis
Kay Simpson	Florence	Verna White, Hearts Desire RG
Marty Marturello	Florence	Linda Kirk
KaSara Streetman	Florence	April Vaden
Deborah Greer	Guntersville	Annette Coplen & Sandra Walker
Brooke Marbutt	Hackleburg	Jodi & Justin Trulove
Susan Knight	Hamilton	Ken & Melinda Knight
Brenda Franklin	Hopkins	Cheryl Finch
LaDonna Isbell	Leeds	Eddie Vann
Sniedze Vise	Liepaja	Gunta Grina-Sologuba & Chris Green
Mindy Robbins	Morris	Heather Cason
Sarah Thompson	Oxford	Bill & Glenda Prestridge
Sandra Perkins	Talladega	Paul Webb & Sherry Jackson
Lindsey McAteer	Tuscaloosa	Suzanne Craft
Karen Barger	Tuscaloosa	Polly Bailey
Janie Oaks	Tuscumbia	Veronica Bayles & Mary Kate Mills
Miriam Adams	Vinemont	Dianne Herfurth & Peggy Burgess

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 477
August 19-22, 2018**

Lay Director	Butch Fennell (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	James Dodwell (Priority) Vic hamilton (Fourth Day) Paul Webb Chuck Belitz Steve Crowe Chuck Terrell
Spiritual Director	Mike Densmore (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Amy Parsons Vaughn (Prevenient Grace) Ted Anderson (Justifying Grace) Rick Talley (Sanctifying Grace) Michael Russell (Obstacles)
Music	Rhonda DeHaven
Asst. Table Leaders	Alan Brown (Priesthood) Duane Skarecky (Study) Barry Thompson (Discipleship) Jim Starnes (Changing Our World) Wallis Wesson (Christian Action) Bill Goodwin (Body of Christ) Dave Hall (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Randy Nelson Mike Parker Terry Womack Fred Muenzmay Ronnie Lynch Neil Branham Dennis Murphy
Board Reps.	Brenda Kent, Willie Johnson

Committees

Agape:	Stephanie Kirby	334-863-0051
Meal Service:	Kim Warren	256-378-5611
Refreshments:	Patrice Booth	256-234-9251
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Linda Kociaba	256-820-1931
Housing:	Teely Samson	256-239-6263
Candlelight:	Bill Prestridge	256-831-6820
Clean-up:	Dustin Baird	256-738-1484
Closing:	David Phillips	256-362-9452
Entertainment:	Carol Scroggin	706-766-4102
Follow-up:	Rhonda Nelson	256-404-2502
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Judy Belitz	256-362-6412
Sponsors' Hour:	Susan Vickers	256-329-6398
Worship	Harriett Goodwin	256-212-2096
Photographer:	Deb Hendrick	256-861-2000
Humble Servant:	Debra Fennell	256-839-5933

Name	City	Sponsor
Josh Vanschoiack	Athens	Amanda Hargrove
Larry Barnard	Boaz	Josh & Misty Brogdon
Ben Nelson	Childersburg	Woni Nelson
John Richards	Columbus	Frank Frazier
Roy Ross	Florence	William Vaden
Eric Ross	Florence	William Vaden
Phillip Michael	Florence	Phillip Everett & Dennis Burfield
Randall Ham	Fort Payne	Ben Shurett
Jesse Bailey	Gadsden	Andrea Marbut
Bro. Tim Byers	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Bobby Bowen	Huntsville	Greg Bowen
Steve Lessmann	Madison	Albert Killen
Stephen Tanner	Muscle Shoals	Tony Latham
Chig Dudley	Reamlap	Lonnie Holt
Josh Tilley	Tanner	Glenn Stokes & Jack McDaniel

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Newsletter of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Walk to Emmaus

Upper Room series Resources available

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

The Alabama Emmaus Community has access to a lot of great books to continue your journey after your Walk. Listed below are some of the books offered to the Community on Saturday night prior to Candlelight.

- Sponsorship
- Coming Down from the Mountain
- Fruit of the Spirit
- What is Chrysalis?
- One in the Spirit
- Spiritual Growth through Team Experience
- The Role of Agape
- Group Reunion
- The Early History
- Day Four

These books are produced by The Upper Room. They are \$6.00 each and are located in the foyer in Hutto. The Board Representatives for the walk occurring will be at the Registration Table to assist you with your purchase.

Worship booklets are also available for \$2 each and DeCOLORES bumper stickers are available for \$1. Worship booklets, Day Four books and DeCOLORES bumper stickers are available on Sunday night prior to Closing.

DeColores!
Kathy Hall, Walk 379 Literature/Permanent Committee

Praying for You

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

Kim Warren (286) in the loss of her step-father, Virgil Chandler

The family of **Rev. Earl Gordon (24)**

Rev. Wayne Hicks (321) in the loss of his mother, Linda W Hicks

Max Carter (165) in the loss of his wife, **Lem Carter (104)**

Scott Howell (85) in the loss of his father, H Scott Howell

Bill Peinhardt (3) in the loss of his sister, Carolyn Peinhardt Johnson

Jeanette Duke (34) in the loss of her husband, Riley “Coach” Duke

Kay Parker-Phillips (166) in the loss of her father, Clifford B Parker

Beverly Easterwood (275) in the loss of her sister, Teresa Carpenter

Nita Livingston (247) and **Kathy Dark (247)** in the loss of their sister, Wyvonne Watkins

The family of **Tom Alverson**

Colin Bagwell (116) in the loss of his wife, **Eric Bagwell (149)** and Becca Crawford in the loss of their mother, and **Jeff Crawford (139)** in the loss of his mother-in-law **Joyce Bagwell (116)**

Judie Wesson (442) in the loss of her brother, Virgil (Buck) Hay