

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 16 No. 1

February 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

Ted Hagler
Treasurer

Terrie Alexander
Chad Bottcher
Joan Cleveland
Denise Cone
Freda Crumpton
Ann Seay Frazier
Lynda Hall
Lamar Hiett
Linda Holt
Willie Johnson
Brenda Kent
Al Killen
Bob Manney
Jerry Nelson
Rita Speegle
Jane Sims
Katie Woodward
Board Representatives

Kathy Hall
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Jennifer Swinney
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

First things first, please

By **BILL BEATTY**
Lay Director

Before I say anything else, I want to thank all of you for honoring me with the privilege of serving as your Community Lay Director. Now, I want to thank all of you for your dedication of service in the many roles that each of you continually volunteer and fulfill. Our Emmaus Community, lead by the Holy Spirit, makes an awesome team! I am look forward to working with all of you.

This year we have 10 walks scheduled. In other words we all have 10 wonderful opportunities to change people's lives. How many people do you know who will tell you that their Emmaus Walk was life changing?

My walk, #280, definitely changed my life. Don't you want to give someone you know the same opportunity to change their life just like your Emmaus Walk changed yours?

If you have asked someone to go on an Emmaus Walk and have been turned down, do

not give up on them! Perhaps the timing was not right or work or family issues prevented them from participating. Try asking them once more; they deserve another chance. To go on a Walk is a blessing that no one should leave on the table. We just don't know what we do not know until we find out differently. When you sponsor a Pilgrim, they will be blessed, and you will also be blessed much more than you ever expected.

Sponsorship is the lifeblood of Emmaus. Without Pilgrims we cease to exist. We feel that this is so important that we have added a special class to the Cluster Leadership Training on sponsorship and new pilgrim orientation this year.

My favorite Emmaus motto is "To serve not to be served." Let this be your first Emmaus service this year. Go right now and kick off the New Year by sponsoring someone. Let's fill up our 10 walks and add at least two more. Our new Community Coordinator, Angel Rait, is waiting for your application!

DeColores! YBIC, Bill Beatty

I have been robbed

By **CHUCK WORLEY**
Spiritual Director

As you read this article, we are in the midst of Lent. The season began on February 14 with an observance of Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a time of repentance, a time to begin preparation for the season to come. It is a time to come clean before the Lord.

The 40 days of Lent are a time of fasting and introspection. It is a period of penance in which we prepare our hearts to accept the saving work of Christ at Calvary. Please notice that the Lenten season extends more than the allotted 40 days. Why? Because of Sun-

day. Rather than days of penance and somber reflection, every Sunday is a day of celebration. Every Sunday is a "little Easter" celebrating our risen Savior.

Lent takes us to Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday when the season ends. Glorious Easter is then on the horizon. Each and every day in Lent is a time of reflection, celebration, and a witness of our faith in Christ.

As we approach Holy Week, I want to share with you an idea Leonard Sweet recently offered to a gathering of UM pastors in Birmingham. The gist of that idea follows:

Speaking of Calvary: "I want to propose to you there were not two thieves there that day, rather there were three thieves on a cross. The third, the one in the middle, was every bit the thief as the others and just as guilty as the other two.

The third thief stole shame from the woman at the well. He stole the power of sin from death. He stole from you your heart..."

Have you been robbed? What has the third thief stolen from you? What of yours did the Jesus take to his grave? During this Lenten Season what will you find to celebrate on Easter Sunday?

Many Thanks!!

I wanted to thank everyone in the Community for all the help, support and generosity shown to me over the past 20 years. It was truly appreciated. When we say, “in the spirit of cooperation and charity” in the Alabama Emmaus Community, we keep Christ as a priority in our sponsorship and service. Again, thank you for a wonderful experience!

De Colores,
Carolyn Phillips
Talladega 1st UMC
AL Walk #63, Table of Ruth

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, 1016 Sedgefield Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35150, or emailed to DHall92727@aol.com.

The missing piece

By ANGELRAIT
Community Coordinator

As I sit and reflect on what to write for this article, my thoughts take me back to the evening of Nov. 26. Carolyn and David were coming the next day to move the “Emmaus Office” from their home to mine.

In preparation, I rearranged furniture and painted the door that would be my desk top. I had bought a table for the printer, and the file cabinet was empty, ready to be filled.

I had been training with Carolyn for weeks, taking notes and studying her files. But was I **really** ready? As I sat there in anticipation of the big move, something just didn’t feel right about this room – something was missing.

After much prayer, I finally realized what it was. You see, every time I have something important to do, a place to be, a message to preach, an Emmaus Walk to serve, a job interview to attend, etc., I always have something special in my presence that gives me the confidence to achieve the task at hand.

That “something special” is the cross I received 20 years ago on a Sunday afternoon just before the closing of Walk 173.

For 20 years that cross has carried me through many situations because it’s a reminder that “Christ is counting on me!” I walked into the worship room one final time that Sunday afternoon and heard the challenge that completed the walk and set the pace for my Fourth Days. For 72 hours I heard about God’s grace, love and mercy. I listened, took notes, ate, laughed, cried, ate, sang, prayed, ate, gave my burden away, and got a glimpse of heaven. But, those words on my cross literally took my breath away – HE IS COUNTING ON ME!

Me, just an ordinary person called to priestly work in God’s Kingdom on earth. As I sat in the worship room, I was filled with enormous emotion by this challenge. Terry Bentley put that cross around my neck, looked me in the eyes, and said, “Christ is counting on you.” Tears rolled down my face as I answered, “And I am counting on Him.”

Reflecting on this experience helped me recognize what the new Emmaus Office was missing. Now every day when I sit at my desk, every time the phone rings, every time I read something on the computer, every time I feel overwhelmed, I look at my Emmaus cross hanging on my lamp, and I hear God saying to me, “I am counting on you.”

And every day I wrap my hand around that precious cross – the piece needed to complete the office – and reply, “And I am counting on You.” What a perfect way for God to send us home from the mountain, and what a perfect way to start every day in the Emmaus office.

Where is your Emmaus cross? Have you thought about those five words that you, too, heard on a Sunday afternoon? I hope that your cross, like mine, is in a place where you can see it and hold it every day. What a beautiful reminder of Christ choosing us and His confidence in us to be His Hands and Feet. Hallelujah!

His,

Angel Rait, sjc, #173, Table of Martha, Pell City 1st UMC

Sponsorship brings 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	SPRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
473	Mar 1-4	Sarah Rickert	Lynn Gibson	Tuscaloosa/WAL	Katie Woodward/ Terrie Alexander
474	Apr 5-8	Joey Croft	Terry Bentley	Gad/Mar/Ch-Dk	Ann Seay Frazier/ Lamar Hiatt
475	Apr 21-24	Joan Manning	Todd Owen	Huntsville	Linda Holt/ Al Killen
476	May 24-27	Kay Davis	TBD	BE/BS/SS	Denise Cone/ Jerry Nelson
477	Aug 9-12	Butch Fennell	Mike Densmore	E. Ala/Cheaha	Brenda Kent/ Willie Johnson

*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 474
April 5-8, 2018**

Lay Director	Joey Croft (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Shane Vandergriff (Priority) Terrell England (Fourth Day) Lane Berry Kelly Saylor Don Johnson Miles Green
Spiritual Director	Terry Bentley (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dudley Brock (Prevenient Grace) Chris Herbert (Justifying Grace) Jerry Croft (Sanctifying Grace) Vicki Mann (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Jim Holcomb
Asst. Table Leaders	Nelson McClure (Priesthood) Jason Mabe (Study) Charlie Ayers (Discipleship) Rocky Harnen (Changing Our World) Mark Wright (Christian Action) Trent Compton (Body of Christ) Todd Walker (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Brent Maddox Kent Bouldin Allen Walker Jonathon Harris Will Clay Dwain Elder Rod Eddlemen
Board Rep.	Anne Seay Frazier, Lamar Hiatt

Committees

Agape:	Paula Wright	256-728-4558
Meal Service:	Jim Mobley	256-878-0712
Refreshments:	Leslie Colegrove	256-442-4652
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Pam Long	256-673-1712
Housing:	Lisa Saylor	256-728-8240
Candlelight:	Vanessa Vandergriff	256-302-2374
Clean-up:	Janie Franks	256-728-5029
Closing:	Rebecca Killebrew	256-572-8680
Entertainment:	Mary Dea Rains	256-572-4245
Follow-up:	Jacque Clay	256-490-5008
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Gail Hiatt	256-659-6161
Sponsors' Hour:	Barbara Meigs	256-582-6471
Worship:	Karen Rhodes	256-506-2085
Photographer:	Barbara Harris	256-582-7661
Humble Servant:	Crystal Croft	256-677-3529

Name	City	Sponsor
Bobby Bowen	Huntsville	Greg Bowen
Brandon Carrin	Huntsville	Stephen Powell and Nancy Nolen
Roger Carroll	Hineston	Travis Hendrix
David Christensen	Huntsville	Juanita Harris
Richard Claus	Madison	Lee Riddle
Chuck Drake	Madison	Coleen Leopard Drake
Jerry Faiella	Huntsville	Donald Willson
Scott Hawkins	Geraldine	Kent Bouldin
Brian Henley	Helena	Jack Bailey
Drew Hill	Athens	Emily Hill
David Howell	Hackleburg	Devin & Jeremy Marbutt
Lee Kasmeier	Florence	Sarah Withrow
Tim Kimbrell	Guntersville	David & Shirley Chupp
TC Wong	Madison	Manh C. Dang

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 475
April 21-24, 2018**

Lay Director	Joan Manning (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Susan Lewis (Priority) Sherry Johnson (Fourth Day) Layne Salvadore Marty Bryan Kathy Lawler Linda Case Lynda Baker
Spiritual Director	Todd Owens (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Lynn Dimon (Prevenient Grace) Cheryl Blakenship (Justifying Grace) Lucy Morales (Sanctifying Grace) Donna King (Obstacles)
Music	Mark Gero
Asst. Table Leaders	Alice Gero (Priesthood) Amy Seymour (Study) Joyce Smith (Discipleship) Vicki Leferre (Changing Our World) Carolyn Owen (Christian Action) Debbie Collins (Body of Christ) Sandra May (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Laura Bracy Hillary Dunham Lola Spearman Jana Killen Melissa Harkin Leigh Martin Tara Dombrowski
Board Reps.	Linda Holt, Al Killen

Committees

Agape:	Terry Lewis 256-725-1821
Meal Service:	Doris Wilson 256-656-5817
Refreshments:	Jane Bauer 256-837-2297
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Anne Whitfield 256-534-2193
Housing:	Tim Cotton 256-684-9600
Candlelight:	Peter Loveman 256-503-1580
Clean-up:	Roger Crowson 256-337-3014
Closing:	Tom Turner 256-783-7363
Entertainment:	Jack Lawrence 256-797-5884
Follow-up:	Gary Crawford 256-508-2437
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Vern Spearman 256-656-1126
Sponsors' Hour:	Debbie Youngs 256-650-5012
Worship	Leslie Comer 256-509-1142
Photographer:	Rica McRoy 256-527-2906
Humble Servant:	Roger/Karrin Crowson 256- 337- 3014

Name	City	Sponsor
Diana Crawford	Hazel Green	Donna Thackerson
Miranda Culbert	Boaz	Josh and Misty Brogdon
Nessa Faiella	Huntsville	Bonnie Willson
Rita Flory	Steens	Sarah Rickert
Tiffany Kilpatrick	Alabaster	Kathy Kilpatrick
Cassandra Langford	Huntsville	Tamela Norman
Cindy Larkin	Livingston	Jess Wood
Julie Lowery	Murfreesboro	Martha McDow
Wanda Nicholas	Shelby	Elaine Wildsmith
Rachel Olis	Pelham	Terri Milstead & Mark Olis
Sandra Perkins	Talladega	Paul Webb & Sherry Jackson
Katie Reynolds	Northport	Katie Woodward & Barbara Reed
Lynne Rogers	Birmingham	Rhonda Rush and Karen Balikas
Kristie Smith	Tuscaloosa	Angie Baines

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P.O. Box 38
Cropwell, AL 35054

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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.

Donna Wells (166), for the loss of her mother, Opal Parker

The family of **Maria Eason (457)**

The family of **Willodean Walker (303)**

The family of **Jimmie Oliver (268)**

GINNA SINIARD (158), STEVE SINIARD (270) and LISA DONNELL (233)

in the loss of their mother **Shelva Siniard (264)**

The family of **Donna Goff (417)**

Alan Wingfield (263) in the loss of his brother and

Bonnie Riggins (253) in the loss of her father, **Billy Wingfield (276)**

The family of **Ruby Cox (91)**

Michael Strong (355) in the loss of his brother, Willie Strong

David Sherrell () in the death of his mother-in-law, Lorene Gilliland Wood

The family of **Fred Smith (432)**

Bill Arnold (5) in the loss of his wife, **Gayle (6)**

Judy Shivers (373) in the loss of her mother

Tony Jones (125) in the loss of his mother

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