

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

Vol. 17 No. 1

February 2019

Community Humble Servants

Linda Holt
Lay Director

Tim Alexander
Spiritual Director

Terrie Alexander
Asst. Lay Director

Dorothy Ann Webster
Asst. Spiritual Director

Angel Rait
Community Coordinator

Jim Sims
Treasurer

Terrie Alexander
Linda Case
Joan Cleveland
Lamar Hiatt

Teresa Holderfield

Willie Johnson
Al Killen

Patsy Killen
Sherry Lockhart

Bob Manney
Dianna McQueen

Jackie Mize
Brian Moore
Jerry Nelson
Kay Parker-Phillips
Paul Webb
Board Representatives

Kathy Hall
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Jennifer Swinney
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

Sponsorship In 2019

Let's all get really excited

By **LINDAHOLT**
Lay Director

First, I would like to thank Bill Beatty, the 2018 Community lay director, for his service and a job well done. I also want to thank Ted Hagler and Jim Bissonnette, who have retired after many years of dedicated service to the Emmaus community.

Beginning a new year is exciting and lots of people make New Year's resolutions or set goals for the year ahead. I am a goal setter and enjoy working hard to meet those goals. In the upcoming Board of Directors' meeting and the Cluster Leadership Training, we will be setting goals for 2019.

Of course, one of the main

goals will be to increase sponsorship. Last year Bill emphasized the importance of sponsorship in his articles in the *Grapevine* and Angel Rait, our community coordinator, challenged everyone to sponsor at least one person a year. I want to continue that emphasis and challenge.

Sponsorship is the heart and health of Emmaus. It states in our Day Four booklet from the Upper Room, "The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of the community's recruiting practices."

In my profession of 30 years, I was a teacher and coach at the middle school, high school, and college levels. My

teams were successful mainly because of recruiting, lots of hard work, motivating and caring for my student-athletes, and lots and lots of prayer.

After I retired, I went on Emmaus Walk 339, and continued those same recruiting practices through sponsorship. This resulted in my husband and me sponsoring many new pilgrims. Most of us get excited about Alabama, Auburn, or our favorite team's football recruits as we anxiously await a new season.

Let's take that same enthusiasm and get excited about sponsoring new pilgrims, watching them transition as they grow in God's love, which in turn
(Please See Holt Page 2.)

'Thin Places' offer divine glimpse

By **TIMALEXANDER**
Spiritual Director

My wife Terrie and I have been taking Spiritual Direction Training with the Alabama-West Florida Conference at Blue Lake Camp. We read books in between sessions; and go to Blue Lake once a quarter for 4 days of study, group time, and solitude. We've enjoyed it – for the most part. I have been convicted of some of my short fallings and stretched in some directions that I resisted, but I am so glad we have entered into this training.

At our last training in January, we studied the Desert Fathers and Mothers, Celtic Spirituality, and the Spirituality of the Twelve Steps. As one who loves history of any kind but particularly church history, I really enjoy the historical backgrounds presented in these classes.

One of the ideas we get from Celtic Spirituality is that of "Thin Places." An official definition of a "thin place" would be "locales where the distance between heaven and earth collapses

and we're able to catch glimpses of the divine." (J. Phillip Newell, *Listening to the Heartbeat of God*) The distance between heaven and earth collapses and we experience God more intimately. For the ancient Celts, places like the wind-swept isle of Iona or the rocky peaks of Croagh Patrick were considered thin places.

Among my favorite pictures described in the Scriptures comes from the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer. Luke's Gospel says "...Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.'" (Luke 3:21b-22, NKJV) Wow! Now that's a thin place.

In the Upper Room Disciplines 2019, David Benedict tells us that the word for open used in Luke 3:21 is translated in the Hawaiiin text as "weheia," which has a much wider range
(Please See Alexander Pg. 2.)

Holt

(Continued from Page 1)

strengthens our Christian communities.

Now that's a win-win situation.

Have you been "sitting on the sideline" and watching others participate in sponsorship? In 2019, I encourage you to get "off that bench," let God be your guide and "coach," and sponsor, sponsor, sponsor! Let's get excited about sponsorship and make 2019 our best year yet!

Alexander

(Continued from Page 1)

of definition than our word open. It means open, untie, undo, loosen, unlock, and take off (as in clothes). So Benedict says this expands our thinking on what happened that day when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. The sky opened, became untied, undone. The sky let loose, was unlocked – or "Heaven became naked and exposed and the Holy Spirit was revealed." Again, now that's a thin place.

For me, Camp Sumatanga has always been a thin place.

From my first trip there the summer before I entered the fifth grade, through my last trip there in November 2018 for Alabama Emmaus Walk #481, I've experienced a fresh presence of the Holy Spirit in my life many times.

It's not part of my theology that God is closer in some places than others – I believe we can experience God wherever we are. However, I believe there are places we are more likely to encounter God because of what we bring to the table.

At Camp Sumatanga, for camps, classes, and Emmaus Walks, we come bathed in prayer. We get away from the outside world for a few days – no cell phone, no TV, no computers. We come anticipating that the Holy Spirit is going to show up. And the Holy Spirit seems to always show up.

One of my goals is to enter into other phases of my life with that same attitude. Prayer, presence to the moment, anticipating that the Holy Spirit will show up.

Thin places aren't limited by location – they occur anywhere that God is present.

DeColores!

Welcome, Jim Sims!
We appreciate your new service as
our Community treasurer!

The Grapevine

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More than a donut

By ANGELRAIT

Community Coordinator

In mid-January my husband and I went on a youth winter retreat with our church. The trip was wonderful with lots of surprises, one of which was waking up to snow! It was obviously bitter cold, but that didn't stop the worship or the fun.

The rain and snow did prevent us from some of the planned activities, so we had to shift to "Plan B." Because of that, the youth director decided to treat the kids with a Krispy Kreme Donut. There were 35 of us, and when we all crammed into the small entrance, it was packed.

Needless to say, there was a long wait.

There was a man at the counter, and when he looked up and saw the "crowd", he started passing out free donuts hot off the conveyer belt. After all had received one, he went back to the front of the line and started giving out another. The manager got involved and asked if the kids would like a tour and to make their own donut.

It turned into an amazing experience and, for an unexpected change of plans, a *sweet* blessing was received.

The man who gave out the donuts shared with us that he had received bad news that morning and he was having a hard time shaking it. When our group came in, he decided to distribute free donuts so that he could experience some joy.

Seeing their excitement, and the fun they were having brought this man *sweet* joy he had not expected to have that day. In giving *sweet* "JOY" he received *sweet* "JOY" in return.

This makes me think of a song we used to sing in Children's Church:

Life without God's Love is like a donut
Coz there's a hole in the middle of your heart!

It might be okay for a while,
Then the truth will take away my smile!
There's something sad inside me I can't control,
When I think about a donut hole!

*But when Jesus fills your heart
He satisfies your soul
Like a pastry nugget in the donut hole!*

Isn't that the way it is with Emmaus, *the sweet nugget of joy?*

We go on our Walk, and then we are eager to share the love and *sweet* joy that we received with others. One way of doing that is to tell others what you have experienced.

Another way is to sponsor someone so they can experience it for themselves. Then at closing, we get to receive back the *sweet* nugget, and the circle of Emmaus continues.

Don't break the circle! I encourage you to invite a friend to go out for a donut and coffee and share the *sweet* joy of Emmaus along with the joy of the donut. Have an application on hand that can also be joyfully shared!

God calls us to be that *sweet* nugget to others. So, who will you be sponsoring and sharing that *sweet* joy with this month??

Angel Rait, sjc

#173, Table of Martha, Pell City UMC

New leaders benefit from information

2019 cluster leadership training slated

The 2019 Cluster Leadership Training will be held at 2:00 p.m., Feb. 23, at Camp Sumatanga. Community Lay Director Linda Holt has asked each Cluster Leader to send as many Cluster members as will attend and to reply with the numbers.

There is already a Cluster planning to bring eight members, so Linda has arranged with the Camp to have the meeting upstairs in McKinney-Atkins.

This is the office building across the

street from the Lodge. Linda is hoping your Cluster will help fill that room!

Cluster Leadership Training gives newly elected leaders the opportunity to receive their packet of 2019 information from the Community Board.

This packet will have lists of the new Board of Directors and all Cluster Contacts, as well as schedules for the year. The agenda will include members of the Community Board who will be explaining their function and sharing any recent updates that may

have occurred.

The new Community Webmaster and the new Community Database Registrar will be there also. This meeting is prime time to share ideas and learn tips from others for growing your Cluster.

The 2019 focus for the Board is Sponsorship, so there will be plenty of this information to carry home.

This year's training is going to be a real upgrade – not like any earlier versions. Don't miss it!!!



Let's **FILL UP**
all 2019 Walks!
God is calling
whom through **YOU?**



THANK YOU...

Ted Hagler

for your many years
of humble service to the
Alabama Emmaus Community!

UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPIRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
482	Feb 21-24	Deborah Naugher	Lloyd Gibbs	Gadsden/Dekalb/ Marshall	Lamar Hiatt Teresa Holderfield
483	Mar 7-10	Tim Cotton	Mitchell Williams	Huntsville	Al Killen Linda Case Jerry Nelson
484	Mar 21-24	Julie English	Ted Leach	BhamE/ BhamS/ S Shelby	Dianna McQueen
485	Apr 25-28	Denise Burford	Amy Parsons Vaughn	Cheaha/E Alabama	Willie Johnson Paul Webb
486	May 2-5	Buddy Purdue	Alan Beasley	Franklin/Hamilton/ Haleyville	Joan Cleveland Jackie Mize
487	Aug 15-18	Melanie Skillman	Barry Hallman	Blount/Cullman	Bob Manney Kay Parker-Phillips

*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 483
March 7-10, 2019**

Lay Director	Tim Cotton (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Rusty Congo (Priority) Bruce Parris (Fourth Day) Terry Lewis John Cole Lee Riddle Vern Spearman
Spiritual Director	Mitchell Williams (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Todd Owen (Prevenient Grace) Mike Brinkman (Justifying Grace) Chip Vann (Sanctifying Grace) Sherill Clontz (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Debbie Weaver
Asst. Table Leaders	Ricky Sparks (Priesthood) Ken Bauer (Study) Mark Gero (Discipleship) Rich Reid (Changing Our World) George Bracey (Christian Action) Ed Fuller (Body of Christ) Marty Leeth (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Michael Darnell Charlie Howell Ken Mason Ken Newton Grant Preston Rolo Weaver George White
Board Rep.	Al Killen, Linda Case

Committees

Agape:	Susan Lewis	256-652-1960
Meal Service:	Joyce Smith	256-714-8689
Refreshments:	Sandy May	256-763-4592
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Tara Dombrowsky	256-714-2466
Housing:	Jana Killen	931-565-2470
Candlelight:	Tom Turner	256-783-7363
Clean-up:	Rock Holt	256-479-0566
Closing:	Melissa harkins	256-698-1940
Entertainment:	Rica McRoy	256-527-2906
Follow-up:	Don Colbath	256-881-1639
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Billy Bell	256-698-0839
Sponsors' Hour:	Jane Smith	256-883-4409
Worship:	Beth Reid	256-694-0908
Photographer:	Rica McRoy	
Humble Servant:	Karen Cotton	256-651-9450

Name	City	Sponsor
Jeff Walker	Albertville	Mitch Floyd
Eric Horton	Albertville	Alice Edwards
Will Holladay	Athens	Brian Moore, Fredrick Martin, Jim Maynard & Scott Henry
Jon Hughes	Billingsley	Tom Benz
Trey Mitchell	Florence	Pete Peeden
Matt Buerhaus	Florence	Pete Peeden
Tim Monceret	Florence	Thomas Thompson
Sean May	Gainsville	John & Sandra May
John Collings	Geraldine	Kent Bouldin
Lee Mann	Guntersville	Chris Herbert
Bill Crosby	Huntsville	Billy Bell, Chad Steed & Joe Vonderheide
Terry Rogers	Huntsville	Gail Johnson
Eric Lipscomb	Huntsville	Dianne & George Lyrene
Josh Scritchfield	Huntsville	Sarah Withrow & Lee Kasmeier
Martin Valenzuela	Madison	Randy Nelson
K.C. Orr	Madison	Shannon Reed
Stacy Terry	Northport	David Hill
David Schmitt	Owens Cross Rds	Ken & Jackie Albrecht
Kyle Shelton	Pell City	Stirling & Angel Rait
Ray Hare	Roanoke	Clay Tinney & Chris Martin
Steve Thornton	Rogersville	Faron White
Clay Barnes	Trattville	Lee Hamilton
Michael Locascio	Tuscaloosa	Nena Locascio
Allen Tant	Union Grove	Reuben M Carter
Blake Barnwell	Warrior	Aaron Meeks

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 484
March 21-24, 2019**

Lay Director	Julie English (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Melissa Jarrell (Priority) Tammy Carpenter (Fourth Day) Ruth Ann Clay Suzanne Frazier Dianne Fisher Julia Rudd
Spiritual Director	Ted Leach (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Ron Schultz (Prevenient Grace) Byron Vance (Justifying Grace) Angela Martin (Sanctifying Grace) Terri Milstead (Obstacles)
Music	Charlie Beavers
Asst. Table Leaders	Anne Simmons (Priesthood) Wendy Farmer (Study) Tina Townsend (Discipleship) Susan Sheffield (Changing Our World) Patty Crauswell (Christian Action) Katie Allen (Body of Christ) Susan Blackmon (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Lacie Oden Beckee Taunton Vicki Hall Susan Day Theresa Harris Margarer Ruston Susie Simmons
Board Reps.	Jerry Nelson, Dianna McQueen

Committees

Agape:	Roxann Edsall
Meal Service:	Alan Broadhead 205-937-3885
Refreshments:	Donna Ambrosius 205-807-3306
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Shelia Persons 205-915-1136
Housing:	Jim Frazier 205-919-8931
Candlelight:	Ted Hagler 205-985-9608
Clean-up:	Walter Brown 205-531-6098
Closing:	TBD
Entertainment:	Kay Davis 205-256-8438
Follow-up:	Hank Patterson 205-532-8446
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Kristy Akin 205-229-2786
Sponsors' Hour:	Carol Rayfield 205-604-3131
Worship	Bill Rush 205-919-5118
Photographer:	Bill Rush
Humble Servant:	Bruce Carpenter 205-475-8259

Name	City	Sponsor
Cheryl Howell	Amory	Monica Bush
Carrie Powless	Athens	Kim Henry
Lisa Mobley	Centre	Jay Myrick
Jackie Handley	Cherokee	Leslie & Ralph Waldrep
Shana Arnold	Guntersville	Judi Arnold
Cindy Shaver	Guntersville	David & Kayla Martin
Cheri Gober	Hackleburg	Brad & Lisa Nichols
Marla Wakefield	Haleyville	Bill Farris
Myra Sullivan	Haleyville	Della Ann Howell & Carlin Burrow
Melinda Burnett	Hoover	Suzanne Scott Trammell
Kellie Bonnett	Hueytown	Amy Talton
Debbie Lipscomb	Huntsville	Dianne & George Lyrene
Holly Laue	Huntsville	Rebekah Massey
Polly Bell	Irondale	Lillie Sanders
Cindy Sapp	Maylene	Kathy Kikpatrick
Joy Rittenberry	Millport	Judy Trull
Martha Seay	Millport	Judy Trull
Patricia Bush	Millport	Judy Trull
Liz Walker	Montevallo	Kathy Kilpatrick and Amanda Moore
Laura Powell	Moulton	Kay Seale
Beth Corum	Muscle Shoals	Kay Seale
Logan Moore	Nashville	Brian & Laura Moore
Traci Bennett	Pell City	Angel Rait
Susan Mann	Rogersville	Ralph Mann & Bradley and Stephanie Hipps
Katie Wilson	Rossville	David Wilson
Laura Watson	Saltlo	Zach Behr

The Grapevine

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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.

To the family of **Cindy West McGregor (187)**

To the family of **Kenny Culbert (347)**

To **Dian Long (182)** in the loss of her mother

To **Sharon Palm (43)** in the loss of her husband, Elmer

Palm

To the family of **David Weeks (74)**

The **Mark Bissonnette (134)** in the loss of his wife, and **Tabitha Bissonnette (370)** in the loss of her mother, **Missy Bissonnette (130)**

To **Magdalene Mallory (291)** in the loss of her sister, Rowena Grant

To **Steve Crowe (183)** in the loss of his mother, Helen Oliver Crowe

To the family of **Everett Mosley (291)**

To the family of **Phil Taylor (467)**

To the family of **Jeff Tanner (450)**

To the family of **Becky Hamilton (171)**

To **Dick Gardner (14)**, **Jim Gardner (82)** and **Mike Gardner (22)** in the loss of their father, **Carroll Gardner (1)**

To **John Godina (458)** in the loss of his brother, **Vern Shipley (388)**