



Vol.23 No.6

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

December 2025

Community Humble Servants

Lay Director

Debra Baker

Spiritual Director

David Socha

Asst. Lay Director

Ken Farr

Asst. Spiritual Director

Jeff Fleming

Community Coordinator

Lane Berry

Treasurer

Kathy Mitchell

Board Members

Bill Rush

James Dodwell

Sally Cofield

Ken Farr

Will Clay

Tim Cotton

Jimmy Grisham

Mary Lynn Whitten

Jack Bailey

Stephanie Kirby Minix

Mickey Phillips

Carlin Burrow

Lisa Socha

Laura Bracey

William T. Peeden (Pete)

Melissa Barnes

Literature

Patricia Bush

Supplies

Pam Kirsch

Community Agape

Judy Anderson

Name Buttons

Dan Bell

Newsletter

Stephen Milstead

What Comes Next More Answers After Your Walk

By Debra Baker, Community Lay Director

In the last edition, I tried to answer a few common questions people have after completing their Emmaus Walk at Camp Sumatanga. Today, I want to continue the conversation with a few more.

How Are Board Representatives Chosen?

Each Cluster Grouping is represented by two Board Reps. If a grouping has two clusters, each cluster gets one representative. If there are three clusters in the grouping, two serve at a time on a rotating basis.

To serve as a Board Rep, you must have previously been a Walk Lay Director or an Assistant Lay Director (ALD). Board Reps are approved by the Team Selection Committee of the Cluster Grouping, serve for two years, and cannot serve consecutive terms.

(Please See Baker Page 3.)



Pondering Like Mary

By David Socha, Community Spiritual Director

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

This is one of my favorite verses in the Christmas story. The scripture says Mary "treasured up". The word that Luke used was a word that means to "preserve". The word means to gather and to put away in order to be kept. It's significant to note that Mary was making memories.

The other word in this verse is the word "pondered". The word pondered meant to mull over, to draw conclusions, to consider. It is important that we all ponder from time to time.

Pondering takes a considerable amount of time. It is something we just can't do in a hurry. We need time to be alone and think it over. It is something you can't do in a crowd.

Have you ever thought about what Mary was pondering on that first Christmas? Mary was a teenage girl, betrothed, but unmarried; she has just given birth to a child who is going to save the world. After this miraculous birth, there are angels and shepherds around their lodging making great claims.



(Please See Socha Page 2.)

Coordinator's Corner

By Lane Berry, Community Coordinator

Please continue to actively and prayerfully seek whom God may want you to approach about attending the Emmaus Walk, because - **IT'S STILL ALL UP TO US!**

Through the end of 2025, we still have availability for these Walks.

Walk 538 (W) – Feb 19-22	22 applications
Walk 539 (M) – Mar 5-8	21 applications
Walk 540 (W) – Mar 19-22	1 application
Walk 541 (W) – Apr 23-26	1 application

Scheduling Tip – Since we are not in a 'waiting-list' situation right now, if you know which Walk your pilgrim is interested in, please include a note or simply notate on the application the Walk they prefer to attend. It will make scheduling much easier and save money in postage as well!

Thank you!
God Bless and DeColores!

Sponsorship Reminders

If you are sponsoring a pilgrim, here are some important reminders:

- Show up on Thursday between 6:30 and 7:00 PM.
- Do not leave until after praying over the crosses.
- Make your pilgrim's bed before you leave on Thursday.
- Candlelight worship starts at 7:45 PM on Saturday.
- Do not forget to collect agape letters.
- Closing starts at 4:45 PM Sunday.
- Do not let your pilgrim forget their agape bag in the conference room on Sunday!

Socha

(continued from Page 1)

Pondering and thinking about these things is a great way to describe what she was doing.

I have often tried to take time during this Holy season to ponder like Mary. May I suggest to you a few things to ponder over.

1. Ponder The Providence of God. God orchestrated everything that happened in the birth story. He has also orchestrated events in our lives.
2. Ponder the Presence of God. The angel said that His name would be called "Emmanuel" because He is "God with us"
3. Ponder the Peace of God. The peace of God is available to all of us. We truly have peace when we are at peace with God. Let the Prince of Peace be born in us again at Christmas.

Have a well pondered Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

De Colores



Join us on
Facebook

Join the Alabama Emmaus Community Facebook group for online information about Emmaus events. Search for Alabama Emmaus Community.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
538	Feb 19-22	Barbara Harris	Mark Adams	Gadsden / Marshall	Lisa Socha Melissa Lett
539	Mar 5-8	Tom Panucci	Chris Whitehead	Huntsville	Laura Bracey Sandra May
540	Mar 19-22	Lucy Thrailkill	Vicki Cater	B'ham East / B'ham South / South Shelby	Jack Bailey Brian Ledlow
541	April 23-26	Lou Ann Hubbard	Jeff Ambrester	Franklin / Haleyville Marion	Carlin Burrow Mickey 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!

Baker

(continued from Page 1)

What Do Board Reps Actually Do?

Board Reps serve as support and resource persons for Walk teams. The more experience someone has serving on a team, the more effectively they can fill this role.

They also help ensure that Emmaus guidelines and procedures are followed throughout each Walk, all while offering spiritual and logistical support to the Lay Director and the entire team.

How Often Do Board Reps Meet?

Board members are expected to attend the following:

- Two overnight work sessions
- Five Saturday afternoon meetings
- The Memorial Service and Training Event, which spans Friday evening and Saturday

The Saturday meetings are typically held during Walk week-ends, from 1:00–4:00 PM. These gatherings are where a significant amount of business and decision-making takes place.

How Is the Board Chair Selected?

The Board Chair, also called the Community Lay Director (CLD), is selected annually from among the first-year board members. A Nominating Committee chooses someone to serve the following progression:

1. Assistant Board Chair (Year 2)
2. Community Lay Director / Chair (Year 3)
3. Past Chair (Year 4)

So yes—this is a four-year commitment! It's a lot of time, prayer, and work—but also deeply rewarding.

A Note from the Chair

It has been my honor and joy to serve as the Community Lay Director this year. I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated and faithful Board. Each member has offered their time, wisdom, and heart to ensure that our Walks run smoothly—like a well-oiled machine.

Last year, we formed a Strategic Planning Committee, led by Bill Rush, alongside other board members, Emmaus Community volunteers, and Tony Jones, representing Camp Sumatanga. Their goal? To strengthen the Alabama Emmaus community for the long haul.

Their work has already borne fruit.

We implemented their recommendations, with a special emphasis on Sponsorship and Reunion Groups. Participation

on Walks has grown, and more team members are stepping up to serve. Sandra May, one of the committee members, will take Bill's place as he rotates off the board. She'll join us as a new first-year rep—and we're blessed to have her.

I can't wait to see what God does next!

So... What's Next for Me?

In 2026, I'll still attend board meetings, visit Candlelight services when I can, and serve on teams if the Holy Spirit leads a Lay Director to call on me. I'll continue to serve my Cluster, my church, and most of all, my Lord and Savior—wherever I'm needed, until He says my work here is done.

And I hope that's not for a long time. There's still so much I want to do.

I'll see you at Candlelight in February.

A Song for the Journey

Pass It On

1. *It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around
can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
once you've experienced it
you spread His love to ev'ryone;
you want to pass it on.*
2. *What a wondrous time is spring
when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing;
the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
once you've experienced it
you want to sing it's fresh like spring;
you want to pass it on.*
3. *I wish for you my friend
this happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him,
It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.*

*I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know,
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.*

Words and Music by Kurt Kaiser

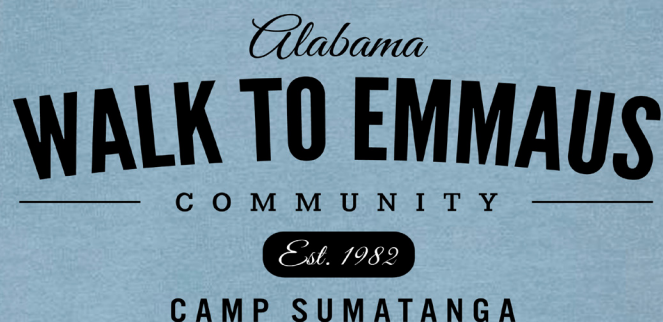
2026 Walk Schedule

538	Feb 19-22	Women
539	Mar 5-8	Men
540	Mar 19-22	Women
541	Apr 23-26	Women
542	May 14-17	Men
543	Aug 13-16	Men
544	Sept 10-13	Women
545	Sept 24-27	Women
546	Oct 15-18	Men
547	Nov 5-8	Women

New Alabama Emmaus Shirts

The Alabama Emmaus community has new threads.

Our Branding, Advertising, and Marketing team commissioned a new design which has been available on new shirts at recent walks. The easiest way to one of the new shirts is to sign-up to serve on an upcoming walk. Currently, pilgrims are offered first chance before team members are allowed a chance to purchase shirts. These shirts are in addition to the classic white shirts with the Alabama Emmaus logo.



Alabama's Young Adult Chrysalis

Alabama's Young Adult Chrysalis is a three-day spiritual renewal retreat for ages 18-28. Like the Walk to Emmaus, the weekend is filled with talks, food, fellowship, and sharing the love of Christ. "Butterflies" hear talks similar to Walk to Emmaus talks, but with a focus on the needs of young adults in today's society.

Our Chrysalis community is seeking help in building a pool of caterpillars for future Chrysalis Journeys. Consider sponsoring a young adult, no matter where they are in their walk with Christ, for upcoming journeys.

Attending a Chrysalis journey does not preclude someone from going on an Emmaus Walk in the future.

There is a participant application on the Alabama YAC website at:

<https://www.alabamayac.com/applications>

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Office, PO Box 2531
Gadsden AL 35903
256-441-6140

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

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 **Marsha Blocker (181)**.

To the family of **Jeanette Baker Clifton (407)**.

To **Gail Henderson (36)**, **Todd (35)** and **Roxanne (124) Henderson** in the death of Gail's husband and Todd's Dad, **Ted Henderson (35)**.

To **Jan Johnson (67)** and her siblings in the death of their mother, **Chris Johnson (67)**.

To **Justin Jones (469)** in the death of his grandmother, Mary Avant.

To **James W. Long (186)** in the death of his brother, George R. Long.

To the family of **Louise Moats (438)**.

To the family of **Audrey Pate (291)**.

Alabama Emmaus Walk 538 February 19-22, 2026

Lay Director Barbara Harris - Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Lisa Smith - Priority
Linda Kirby - Fourth Day
Shalyn Kilpatrick
Misty Brogdon
Teresa Walker
Debra Carmack

Spiritual Director Mark Adams - Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Vickie Mann - Obstacles to Grace
Ricky Smith - Sanctifying Grace
Jeff Benson - Prevenient Grace
Josh Brogdon - Justifying Grace

Music Chairperson Tina Holcombe

Assistant Table Leaders

Pam Walden - Body of Christ
Penny Maddox - Discipleship
Sharla Parris - Life of Piety
Alison Bowling - Changing our World
Paula Wright - Priesthood
Vivian McRae - Christian Action
Gloria Hayes - Growth Through Study

Table Leaders

Cindy Dietsch
Lisa Saylor
Susan Tanner
Lori Hannifield
Glorie Reynolds
Kayla Cherry
Bobbie Reeves

Board Reps

Lisa Socha
Melissa Lett

Committees

Agape	Wendy Zahn	(256) 505-7889
Meal Service	Leslie Colgrove	(256) 390-8318
Refreshments	Debra Baker	(256) 558-1440
Prayer Vigil	Laura Harris	(256) 486-7708
Housing	Lane Berry	(256) 505-6233
Candlelight	Roslyn England	(256) 738-8561
Clean-up	Kelly Saylor	(256) 509-5285
Closing	Rick Hannifield	(981) 851-3210
Entertainment	Lisa Socha	(256) 572-7115
Follow-up	Kim Myers	(256) 571-1282
Prayer Chapel	Gary McRae	(256) 738-4628
Sponsors' Hour	Keith Monk	(256) 486-9596
Worship	Kaye Carter	(256) 558-7603
Photographer	Jim Harris	(256) 572-3026
Humble Servant	Jim Harris	

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Charlotte McCurley	Albertville	Nancy Beason
Kisha Morgan	Albertville	Jacob Vann & Misty Disharoon
Kristen Ballew	Arab	Bill Koch
Donna Young	Athens	Bob Young & Julia Young
Bridgette Barnett	Blountsville	David Socha
Wendy Ulrich	Blountsville	Leigh Thomas
Chrissy Kendall	Boaz	Misty Disharoon & Justin Sanders
Kristen Batey	Crossville	Rena Kennedy & Stephanie Cook
Pat Lann	Detroit	Lisa Halcomb & Kaylee Saarinen
Amy Taylor	Detroit	Renate Lyle & Jennifer Galbreath
Victoria Burkhalter	Echola	Charlie Gordon & Elliott Gordon
Jacey Moore	Fayette	Dana Gilliam & Mandy Harville Brunk & Priscilla Gray
Monica Hogs	Florence	Larry White & Jennifer Bennetch
Charlotte Tabereaux	Florence	Chris Burcham
Janet Iwankovitsch	Guntersville	Joan Howell & Jeanne Johnson
Elishaba Larson	Guntersville	Rebecca Mabe & Jim Harris
Felicia Staten	Guntersville	Kristy Ann Wilson
Heather Holland	Hamilton	Melissa Martin & Natasha Pace
Joyce Lawler	Hoover	Vicki Herring & Heather Monsma
Bonnie Waters	Hueytown	Ione Lowrey
Kathy Phelps	Oneonta	Shannon Jones & Emilie Sims
Allison Bothwell	Tuscaloosa	Danielle Eppes & Wendy McMillian
Elizabeth Eberhart	Tuscaloosa	Danielle Eppes & Wendy McMillian
Wendy Kennedy	Tuscaloosa	Virginia Jones
Sophie McCroskey	Tuscaloosa	Charlie Gordon & Elliott Gordon

