



Vol.24 No.4

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

August 2026

Community Humble Servants

Lay Director

Ken Farr

Spiritual Director

Jeff Fleming

Asst. Lay Director

Jack Bailey

Asst. Spiritual Director

Lynn Gibson

Community Coordinator

Lane Berry

Treasurer

Kathy Mitchell

Board Members

Jack Bailey

Stephanie Kirby Minix

Mickey Phillips

Carlin Burrow

Lisa Socha

Laura Bracey

William T. Peeden (Pete)

Melissa Barnes

Brian Ledlow

Cathy Parker

Jill Sellers

Sheilah Wiginton

Melissa Lett

Sandra May

Celia Rudolph

Sarah Rickert

Literature

Emilie Sims

Supplies

Pam Kirsch

Community Agape

Judy Anderson

Name Buttons

Dan Bell

Newsletter

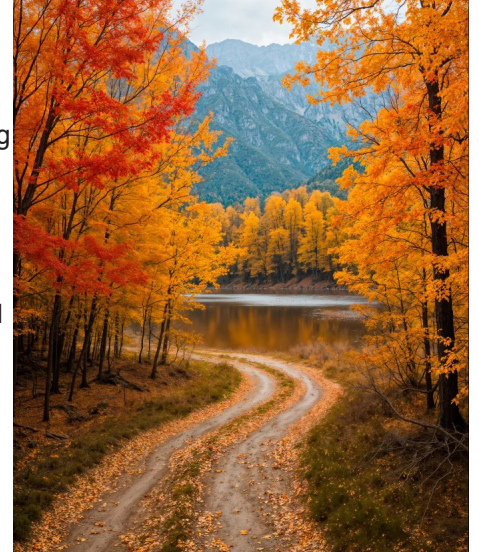
Stephen Milstead

Fall Forward

By Ken Farr, Community Lay Director

As you read this article, August 1st has passed, the Memorial and Training Event has been completed and Walk 543 is in the books. In short, we are off and running in the second half of 2026!

As of August 1, several changes have occurred within our Emmaus Community. David Socha has completed his term as our Community Spiritual Director. A big thank you goes to David for his leadership, wise counsel and friendship. Jeff Fleming has assumed the role of Community Spiritual Director. Also, we welcome Lynn Gibson to our Alabama Emmaus Community Board of Directors. Lynn will be serving as our Assistant Community Spiritual Director. We are very blessed to have both of these amazing gentlemen serving our Emmaus Community.



(Please See Farr Page 2.)

“.....But to Serve”

By Jeff Fleming, Community Spiritual Director

Jeff Fleming, Alabama Emmaus Walk #137, Table of Matthew, and I am honored to serve as the Community Spiritual Director for the upcoming year. I am still trying to get comfortable with that title. I was blessed to serve with Brother David last year and am grateful for the boards grace during the transition.

It appears that the phrase “honored to serve” would be a contradiction in terms as we normally think of those two things. To be honored, elevated, recognized, would appear to be the opposite of serving which indicates voluntarily demoting and diminishing oneself to the consideration of the LORD our GOD and others. Jesus demonstrates this attitude through HIS life and death.

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” ESV. HE would indicate to his disciples that in order to turn an upside-down world, affected by sin, right side up as the Kingdom of GOD operates, they needed to recognize that to be great means to be willing to serve. Matthew 26:20. It doesn’t mean humiliation but humility as we elevate GOD and those around us in our consideration.

I don’t think it is a coincidence that after all these years of each Emmaus Walk being the best Walk ever that the example we follow in JESUS and the attitude we pledge to adopt as a part of the community or a team that we see GOD continue to honor those who humble themselves.

De Colores!



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!**

We still have availability for some of these Walks.

Walk 544 (W) – Sept 10-13 20 applications

Walk 545 (W) – Sept 24-27 18 applications

Walk 546 (M) – October 15-18 7 applications

Walk 547 (W) – November 5-8 7 applications

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!

Farr

(continued from Page 1)

As we enter the second half of 2026, please continue to reach out to potential Pilgrims. Sponsorship is the life blood of our Emmaus Community. Before you decide to sponsor someone, take time to ask yourself: Am I ready to sponsor someone? Do I understand the role of a sponsor? Remember, sponsorship is only the beginning. Sponsorship equals Mentorship. You are making a difference in someone's life.

We have added 111 new members (Pilgrims) to our Emmaus

Community during the first half of this year. This is 111 opportunities we have to mentor these new members as they begin their service to their families, churches, local Cluster and our Emmaus Community.

**Never Underestimate The Difference You Make
And The Lives You Touch!**

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
544	Sept 10-13	Sara Manney	Jeff Helton	Cullman / Blount	Mickey Phillips Jill Sellers
545	Sept 24-27	Dana Gilliam	Mitch Nethery	West Alabama Tuscaloosa	Melissa Barnes Sarah Rickert
546	Oct 15-18	Bob Dehaven	David Socha	Gadsden / Marshall	Lisa Socha Melissa Lett
547	Nov 5-8	Layne Salvador	Tommy Gray	Huntsville	Laura Bracey Sandra May

*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!

2026-2027 Walk Schedule

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

2027

548	Feb 4-7	Women
549	Mar 4-7	Men
550	Apr 1-4	Women
551	Apr 22-25	Men
552	May 13-16	Women

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

Board Bits

2026 Memorial and Training Weekend

This year's annual Memorial and Training Weekend was another opportunity to share the past, present, and future of our Alabama Emmaus community. Around 125 people attended our Memorial Friday night, where a candle was lit and memories shared for 78 members of our community who passed away in the last year. Walk numbers for the pilgrims memorialized ranged from Walk 2 to Walk 482.

On Saturday, 65 people attended the annual training event where they learned about all of the different committees and their roles needed for a walk. This training is so helpful for recent pilgrims discovering where they might want to serve on a walk, but there are also always attendees who have worked many walks who return for a refresher for a role they plan to serve in the future - or just for an opportunity to see old Emmaus friends. In addition to the walk committees, there were also classes on Sponsorship and Permanent Committee Duties, as well as a presentation from Sandra May about the ongoing marketing efforts by the Alabama Emmaus Strategic Planning Committee.

The large event attendance paired with a large walk team for Walk 543 meant that several attendees stayed overnight in the lodge after the Retreat Center rooms were filled. It also meant that Candlelight was large - described by one person as the largest she had seen since before Covid.

If you have never attended the Memorial or Training Weekend, consider it in the future. The memorial is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the lives of members of our community, and the training event is both tremendously informative and also a great social opportunity to get to know more of the people who are living out their Fourth Days just like you. And, as there always will be at Emmaus events, there is singing, devotionals, and plenty of food.

De Colores!

Praying For You

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

Faye Simpkins and **David Simpkins (199)** in the death of her husband and David's Dad, **George "Buddy" Simpkins, Jr. (108)**

Jane Almond (307) in the death of her husband, **Rick Almond (273)**

Alabama Emmaus Walk 544 September 10-13, 2026

Lay Director Sara Manney - Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Rita Speegle
Kathy Hall
Judy Bonds
Mary Quick
Kay Phillips - Priority
Sherry Fincher - Fourth Day

Spiritual Director Jeff Helton – Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Bill Cofield - Obstacles to Grace
Wannell Scott - Prevenient Grace
Gary McRae - Sanctifying Grace
Scott Hagood - Justifying Grace

Music Chairperson Tina Holcombe

Assistant Table Leaders

Judy LaRocque - Body of Christ
VJ Brown - Discipleship
Lori Tafazoli - Life of Piety
Shannon Jones - Changing Our World
Lorie Hannefield - Priesthood
Sue Bailey - Christian Action
Glorie Reynolds - Study

Table Leaders

Sally Cofield
Whitney Foreman
Kathleen King
Crystal Payne
Vicki Hall
Pam Putman
Jennifer Swinney

Board Reps Mickey Phillips
Jill Sellers

Committees

Agape	Ricky Hall	256-810-8968
Meal Service	Tony Mize	205-269-0344
Refreshments	Tim Culpepper	731-415-0059
Prayer Vigil	Jim Sanders	205-275-2292
Housing	Bain Brown	205-369-7630
Candlelight	Ted Hagler	205-873-1674
Clean-up	Bob Manney	205-807-8290
Closing	David Crim	256-237-6131
Entertainment	Deanna Shotts	205-412-2771
Follow-up	Teri Wrenn	256-347-1721
Prayer Chapel	Jackie Mize	205-486-2767
Sponsors' Hour	Pam Branham	205-837-2708
Worship	Emilee Sims	205-451-2407
Photographer	Melanie Skillman	205-446-2369
Humble Servant	Bob Manney	205-807-8290

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Teresa Wouters	Arley	Mike Nix & Airey Nix
Julia Boyer	Athens	Jay Sims & Jenny Sims
Fiona Schlabach	Blountsville	JR Plunkett & Diann Plunkett
Amber Bowling	Crossville	Susan Tanner
Hilda Aldridge	Cullman	David Speegle & Peggy Burgess
Nancy McKenzie	Cullman	Bob Manney
DeAndrea Thompson	Cullman	Sherry Lancaster & Traci Pugh
Debbie Townsend	Cullman	Debbie Hagood & Bob Manney
Courtney Sullivan	Fayette	Dana Gilliam
Terena Stidham	Hamilton	Rodney Stidham & Kimbo Stidham
Nettie Strobbridge	Hamilton	Richard Cantrell & Paul Roberts
Kerisa Walker	Hamilton	Richard Cantrell & Paul Roberts
Michelle Creacy	Huntsville	Mary Williams & Linda Case
Judy Robinson	Jasper	Mike Nix & Airey Nix
Meredith Ford	Locust Fork	LeeAnn O'Toole & Cam Price
Blair Morrison	Moundville	Ken Hanby, Sr. & Barbara Hanby
Janice Stephens	Pell City	Katrina Upchurch
April McDaniel	Sulligent	Alisa Robinson
Misty Gomel	Vestavia	Cynthia Dugger
Misty Gomel	Vestavia	Cynthia Dugger



Alabama Emmaus Walk 545 September 24-27, 2026

Lay Director Dana Gilliam - Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Danielle Eppes - Fourth Day
Linda Holland
Jill Kjar
Judy Voss
Mary Wilson
Pam Lacy - Priorities

Spiritual Director Mitch Nethery - Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Paul Wilson - Obstacles to Grace
Elliott Gordon - Prevenient Grace
Preston Headrick - Sanctifying Grace
Lynn Gibson - Justifying Grace

Music Chairperson Jaron Andrews

Assistant Table Leaders

Jessica Vaughn - Body of Christ
Janie Ross - Discipleship
Priscilla Gray - Piety
Shana Walker - Changing Our World
August Junkin - Priesthood
Tiffany Clayton - Christian Action
Deborah McClean - Study

Table Leaders

Terri Stacy
Virginia Jones
Theresa Dumpson
Wendy McMillian
Deborah Clinton
Lynn Gregory
Dianna Cantrell

Board Reps

Melissa Barnes
Sarah Rickert

Committees

Agape	Angie Broadbent	(662) 574-1343
Meal Service	Roy Bush	(205) 860-1161
Refreshments	Paul Kjar	(205) 765-1556
Prayer Vigil	Luba May	(662) 549-5947
Housing	Mark Scogin	(205) 349-7175
Candlelight	Renee Rimer	(205) 394-2042
Clean-up	Reginald Eppes	(205) 862-4917
Closing	Frank Frazier	(662) 570-5113
Entertainment	Angie Baines	(205) 399-6564
Follow Up	Judy Trull	(205) 712-9191
Prayer Chapel	Katie Woodward	(205) 394-4208
Sponsors' Hour	Juantia Meyer	(662) 497-2636
Worship	Jacque Allred	(205) 275-2534
Photographer	Ryan Rickert	(662) 574-2474
Humble Servants	Wayne Gilliam	(205) 394-5493
	Allen Brunk	(205) 270-0790
	Reginald Eppes	(205) 826-4917
	Ryan Rickert	(662) 574-2474

Pilgrims

Name

Location

Sponsor

Tammy Allen	Albertville	Belinda Samples & Tashina Dunn
Cassie Bruce	Albertville	Tashina Dunn & Belinda Samples
Stephanie Kines	Alpine	Whitney Murchison & Aaron Murchison
Judy Wallace	Bessemer	Susan Blackmon & Vickie Snider
Sara Grace Strickland	Columbus, MS	Mary Lynn Whitten
Beth Dau	Columbus, MS	Mary Lynn Whitten
Brooke Hunnicut	Fayette	Melinda Wheat & Mark Wheat
Jan Hatchett	Griffin, GA	Cynthia Hogeland & Teely Samson
Amy Ezekiel	Guin	Gina Frazier & Stephanie West
Mary Dee Emerson	Hodges	Sarah Emerson & Ritchie Emerson
Barbara Tonn	Madison	Julie Durling
Heather Hedrick	Northport	Renee Rimer & Gaynor Scogin
Rhonda Rice	Owens Crossroads	Tara Dombrowsky
Susan Parlamento	Rogersville	Myra Belue & Mitsy Clemons
Monica Mayfield	Senoia, GA	Teely Samson & Cynthia Hogeland
Meagan Washburn	Springville	Fred Falbo & Pam Falbo
Cheryl Skelton	Tuscaloosa	Barbara Sims
Cheryl Wallace	Tuscaloosa	Dot Brewer
Kathy Williams	Tuscaloosa	Allene Crew
Karla Thomas	Vestavia Hills	Faith Lenhart & Suzanne Scott Trammell
Daisy Frith	Winfield	Chrissy Hill & Mary Ham Wilson

