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The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

October 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

From Pilgrim to Servant Your Emmaus Journey Continues

By Debra Baker, Community Lay Director

Congratulations on completing your Walk to Emmaus! You may be wondering: What comes next? Let's walk through a few of the most common questions and how you can continue growing and serving within the Emmaus community.

How Do I Become a Walk Lay Director?

You may remember the Community Lay Director—the chair of the Alabama Emmaus Community Board—visiting your group on Sunday afternoon. A packet was shared that included lots of information, including the Application to Serve form. If you're interested in serving on a future Walk or in your Cluster, fill out that form and return it to your Cluster Leader.

Can't find the form? Don't worry—you can grab another one at your next Cluster meeting.

How Are Lay Directors Chosen?

Lay Directors are selected more than a year in advance

(Please See Baker Page 3.)



Living the Crucified Life

By David Socha, Community Spiritual Director

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

A.W. Tozer in his book "The Crucified Life", writes about growing deeper in Christ in relationship with Him. The crucified life is important to understanding the dimensions of the Christian faith.

To live a crucified life is to embrace the thought of being crucified with Christ. This is where personal ambitions and desires are willingly surrendered to God. This is an active choice to align our lives with the example and the teachings of Jesus.



In order to be a follower of Jesus we are called to a life of surrender. This life of surrender is to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This surrender challenges us to forsake our own will and plans in exchange for God's greater purpose. The thought of being crucified with Christ influences and reshapes our ongoing relationship with Jesus. This process requires self-examination, prayer and being open to God's leading and results in our lives becoming vessels through which God's grace can flow.

The journey in the crucified life comes with a cost.

(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 535 (W) – Sept. 25-28	24 applications
Walk 536 (M) – Oct. 16-19	30 applications
Walk 537 (W) – Nov. 6-9	9 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.
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)

The cost in discipleship comes with personal sacrifice, discomfort and sometimes loss.

The Holy Spirit plays an enormous role in empowering us to embrace and live out the crucified life. The Holy Spirit leads us to spiritual transformation and equips us to die to self and live the abundant life.

Cultivating a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit involves several steps. A deeper relationship begins with a life of prayer where we engage in meaningful conversations with God. Saturating ourselves with Scripture allows us to listen to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. This is where we find peace and guidance in times of uncertainty. Practicing daily surrender is an aspect of growing in relationship with the Holy Spirit. Empowerment of the Holy Spirit helps us to see the importance of living in community. This brings about encouragement and accountability.

Understanding our call to live a crucified life is an invitation to profound spiritual transformation. Let us all surrender and accept the invitation to have our lives transformed by the power of God.

DeColores



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
536	Oct 16-19	Neil Branham	Tony Jones	Blount / Cullman	Sally Cofield Mickey Phillips
537	Nov 6-9	Katie Woodward	Alicia Rhodes	Tuscaloosa / West Alabama	Mary Lynn Whitten Melissa Barnes
538	Feb 19-22	Barbara Harris	Mark Adams	Gadsden / Marshall	Lisa Socha TBD
539	Mar 5-8	Tom Panucci	Chris Whitehead	Huntsville	Laura Bracey TBD

*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)

so there's ample time for prayer, preparation, and discernment. To be eligible, you'll need to be active in your Cluster and part of a Reunion Group (an accountability group).

Most people start by serving on back hall committees—like Agape, Refreshments, Meal Service, Housing, Worship, Speaker's Prayer Chapel, Music, or Tech. Some of these roles require staying at Camp, especially for those who live farther away.

You might also be invited to serve during:

- Sponsor's Hour (Thursday night)
- Candlelight (Saturday night)
- Closing (Sunday afternoon)
- Follow-Up, 72-Hour Prayer Vigil, Entertainment, or Photography

These roles are vital—and often just the beginning.

What Happens After That?

Once you've served for an entire weekend, a Lay Director may feel led by for Holy Spirit to invite you to serve in the Conference Room as a Table Leader or Assistant Table Leader.

If you've served in both roles, and have given a talk, you may be invited to serve as an Assistant Lay Director (ALD or "bell ringer"). After serving as ALD twice, you become eligible to serve as a Walk Lay Director.

Eligibility doesn't mean immediate selection—many faithful servants are also waiting. The best way to stay on the radar? Stay active, serve with gratitude, and remain open to the Spirit's leading.

Why Are Team Meetings Required?

Team members must complete 20–23 hours of training for preparation, typically across three or four Saturdays. These meetings are essential for planning, bonding, and staying aligned with Emmaus guidelines.

Guidelines are important. They've been shaped over decades of faithful experience. If you have an idea for improvement, bring it to your Board Representative—but never make changes on your own.

Why Do the Bell Ringers Follow Everyone Around?

The Assistant Lay Directors (aka bell ringers) are in charge of keeping the Walk on schedule—a schedule that's been prayerfully followed for over 40 years.

They also ensure every person is present before each talk begins. If someone wanders off and misses the bell, it can delay or even shorten sacred moments for others. It's a humble but crucial role.

Why Were Table Leaders Kept a Secret?

They weren't! You just didn't realize it.

On Thursday night, the Lay Director read from Luke 24—the story of two disciples walking to Emmaus, joined by a "stranger" they didn't recognize as Jesus. Just like in that story, the Table Leaders quietly walk beside you.

In fact, the Lay Director invited all team members to stand that night—you probably just didn't notice your neighbor stand. That's part of the joy for Table Leaders: to serve quietly, and witness your "aha!" moment.

In Closing... Let This Be Your Next Step

You've experienced the love, grace, and joy of the Emmaus community. Now it's your turn to share it with others.

Let's close with a song that says it best:

"Help Somebody Today"

The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal – Mrs. Frank A. Breck (1932)

Verse 1:

Look all around you, find someone in need,
Help somebody today!
Though it be little—a neighborly deed—
Help somebody today!

Chorus:

Help somebody today, somebody along life's way:
Let sorrow be ended, the friendless befriended,
Oh, help somebody today!

Verse 2:

Many are waiting a kind, loving word,
Help somebody today!
Thou hast a message—O let it be heard,
Help somebody today!

Verse 3:

Many have burdens too heavy to bear,
Help somebody today!
Grief is the portion of some everywhere,
Help somebody today!

Verse 4:

Some are discouraged and weary in heart,
Help somebody today!
Someone the journey to heaven should start,
Help somebody today!

De Colores,

Debra Baker
Community Lay Director

2025-2026 Walk Schedule

533	Aug 7-10	Women
534	Sept 11-14	Women
535	Sept 25-28	Women
536	Oct 16-19	Men
537	Nov 6-9	Women
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

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 **Joyce Doak (362)** and family on the loss of her husband **Jim Doak (358)**

To the Family of **Gordon Boyd (241)**

To **Marie Copeland (348)** and family on the loss of her husband **Wendell Copeland (5)**

To **Rev. Dudley Brock (186)** and family on the loss of his "sweetheart," **Mary Frances Brock (291)**

To **Rev. Paul Campbell (235)** and family on the loss of his wife **Kyla Campbell (228)**

To **Michele Cash (114)** and family on the loss of her father **Rev. Walter Cash (78)**

To **Mel Cowan (AEW?)** and family on the loss of his mother **Bonnie Cowan (19)**

To **Charlie (241) and Diane (245) Herfurth** and family on the loss of their grandson Dalton Herfurth

To **Vikki Smith (56)** and family on the loss of her husband **Dafford Smith (241)**

To **Shirley Hays (259)** and family on the loss of her husband **David Hays (453)**

To **Bonnie Styles (274)** and family on the loss of her husband **David Styles (490)**

To **Martha McGill (372)** and family on the loss of her son Robert (Bob) McGill

To **Dee Ann Creel (107)** in the loss of her brother, Randy Hairston

To **Jim (304) and Emilie (305) Sims** in the loss of Emilie's sister, **Sylvia Gelineau (416)**

To **Ann Turner (72)** in the loss of her grandson, Matthew Williamson

To **John (14), Steve (100), and Andy West** in the loss of their father **Pete West (UR2)**

Alabama Emmaus Walk 536 October 16-19, 2025

Lay Director Neil Branham

Assistant Lay Directors

Ricky Hall
Brian Ledlow – Priority
Cliff Myers – Fourth Day
Eric Barr
Jim Sims
OB O'Bryant

Spiritual Director Tony Jones – Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Joe Hastings – Justifying Grace
Cam Price – Sanctifying Grace
Bill Cofield – Obstacles to Grace
Gary McRae – Prevenient Grace

Music Chairperson Linn Lower

Assistant Table Leaders

Holly Colburn – Body of Christ
Tom LaRocque – Discipleship
Mike O'Toole – Life of Piety
Butch Wallace – Changing Our World
T.Ray Mauldin – Priesthood
David Wilson – Christian Action
Trent Danley – Growth Through Study

Table Leaders

Mike Nelson
Stephen Robinson
Gene Thraikill
Fred Buckelew
Mel Travis
Jeff Halcomb
Anthony Reynolds

Board Reps Sally Cofield
Mickey Phillips

Committees

Agape	Leigh Thomas	205-446-3446
Meal Service	Rick Pearson	205-368-2878
Refreshments	Kathy Hall	256-810-0894
Prayer Vigil	Mary Nell Saunders	205-522-4828
Housing	Pamela Branham	205-837-2708
Candlelight	Ted Hagler	205-873-1674
Clean-up	Jack Bailey	205-281-1256
Closing	Rita Speegle	256-339-4791
Entertainment	Bob Bentley	205-559-4327
Follow-up	Lynn Carmichael	205-616-3018
Prayer Chapel	Kay Phillips	205-540-6679
Sponsors' Hour	Julia Rudd	205-936-2282
Worship	Amy Crim	205-237-9780
Photographer	Melanie Skillman	205-446-2389
Humble Servant	Pamela Branham	205-837-2708

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Steve Smith	Alabaster	Ron Babin
Steven Williford	Alabaster	Ted Peterson & Tom Yates
Rodger Disharoon	Albertville	Jeff Benson & Steven Varnell
Lyndon Johnson	Albertville	Jeff Benson & Steven Varnell
Dillon Thomas	Albertville	Sarah Thomas & Christi Cannon
Chuck Hill	Athens	Clay Jackson
Howard Dodson	Birmingham	Clarissa Dodson
Justin Sanders	Boaz	Rena Kennedy & Lee Martin
John Hinson	Decatur	Zach Long & Ben Atchison
Jeremy Allen	Eastaboga	Diana Allen & Andy Robinson
Bob Newman	Goodwater	Don Saxon
Ben Harber	Guntersville	Vicky Cheek & John Cheek
Sam Rector	Hackelburg	Brad Nichols & Mandy Tatum
Matthew Mosher	Haleyville	Richard Cantrell & Preston Headrick
Keith Black	Hamilton	Carrie Black
Jonathan Frederick	Hamilton	Greg Hammitte & Martin Emerson
Eric Guy	Hamilton	Preston Headrick & Richard Cantrell
Dustin Johnson	Hamilton	Richard Cantrell & Preston Headrick
Jason McRae	Hamilton	Melinda Shay Pounds
Steve Rodgers	Hamilton	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook
Layton Wisecarver	Hamilton	Lisa Halcomb & Sheilah Wiginton
Michael Harris	Helena	Kim Shadix & Steve Shadix
Al Atchley	Muscle Shoals	Tony Datuin
Sam Day	Northport	Paul Kjar & Jill Colburn Kjar
Nick Jones	Oneonta	Bradly Martin & Courtney Martin
Jackson Timmerman	Oneonta	Joe Hastings & Roseann Tidwell
Trevor Allison	Russellville	Keylee Allison & Sally Moore
Neal Freeman	Talladega	Michael Hicks & Angel Rait
John Robinson	Talladega	Greg Cuzzort & Todd Henderson
Jack Smith	Talladega	Todd Henderson & Greg Cuzzort
Zach South	Town Creek	Tony Datuin & Will Datuin
Daniel Green	Tuscumbia	Shawn Gober
Philip Webb	Vestavia Hills	Paul Webb
Wayne Mello	Vestavia	Suzanne Scott Trammell
Matthew Suther	Warrior	Austin Johnson

Alabama Emmaus Walk 537 November 6-9, 2025

Lay Director Katie Woodward (Perseverance)

Assistant Lay Directors

Danielle Eppes (Fourth Day)
Sarah Rickert (Priority)
Dana Gilliam
Jill Kjar
Pam Lacy
Norma Lemley

Spiritual Director Alicia Rhodes (Means of Grace)

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Woody Jones (Prevenient Grace)
Lynn Gibson (Justifying Grace)
Preston Headrick (Obstacles to Grace)
Paul Wilson (Sanctifying Grace)

Music Chairperson Jaron Andrews

Assistant Table Leaders

Juanita Meyer (Priesthood)
Wendy McMillian (Piety)
Bethany Aldridge (Growth Thru Study)
Terri Stacy (Christian Action)
Virginia Jones (Discipleship)
Robin Fondren (Changing Our World)
Denise Pope (Body of Christ)

Table Leaders

Renee Rimer
Lynn Gregory
Tracy Dent-Rivers
Patricia Bush
Tinia McLaughlin
Janice Stewart
Deborah Clinton

Board Reps Mary Lynn Whitten
Melissa Barnes

Committees

Agape	Angie Baines	(205) 399-6564
Meal Service	Danny Lemley	(205) 799-8151
Refreshments	Paul Kjar	(205) 765-1556
Prayer Vigil	Kathy Mason	(205) 799-3972
Housing	Joy Jones	(205) 799-3972
Candlelight	Liz Moxley	(662) 243-2190
Clean-up	Health Allred	(205) 431-6384
Closing	Richard Cantrell	(205) 412-3609
Entertainment	Angie Baines	(205) 399-6564
Follow-up	Judy Trull	(205) 712-9191
Prayer Chapel	Jaime Gibson	(662) 425-9344
Sponsors' Hour	Dan Robertson	(205) 242-8725
Worship	Jacque Allred	(205) 275-2534
Photographer	Ryan Rickert	(662) 574-2474
Humble Servant	Reginald Eppes	(205) 826-4917

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Ashley Brown	Alexander City	Cindy Mahan
Jennifer Briody	Florence	Joe Peeden & Jean Peeden
Charlotte Tabereaux	Florence	Chris Burcham
Aimee Holland	Hamilton	Mike Shotts & Rebecca Danley
Kimberly Landry	Hamilton	Lisa Halcomb & Kimbo Stidham
Emily Faith Mattingly	Hamilton	Melinda Shay Pounds & Sarah Emerson
Brittany McRae	Hamilton	Melinda Shay Pounds
Mary Lou Lackey	Hoover	Donna Bagwell & Suzanne Scott Trammell
Ellen Lawrence	Irondale	Anita Norton & Angela Martin
Toni Johnson	Madison	Genie Riddle
Monica McDonald	Mobile	Julie Kuhn
Jaena Eidson	Northport	Sherri Trick
Brittni Jones	Pinson	Lori Hebson
Haley Tant	Tuscaloosa	Sherri Trick

