



Vol.24 No.3

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

July 2026

Community Humble Servants

Lay Director
Ken Farr

Spiritual Director
David Socha

Asst. Lay Director
Jack Bailey

Asst. Spiritual Director
Jeff Fleming

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

A Time to Learn and Grow

By Ken Farr, Community Lay Director

August brings two important events in the life of our Emmaus Community. Friday evening August 14th is our Memorial Service

remembering those members of our Community who passed away last year. While this is a very moving tribute to those who have gone home, it is also a celebration of their love for and service to their families, churches, and our Emmaus Community. Their legacy is a cherished memory we will always remember.

Saturday August 15th is our annual Training Event. This Training is designed to develop future leaders and team members for upcoming walks. Over the last few walks, I have had an opportunity to talk with First Time Team Members. Most of these conversations centered on answering their questions and they had lots of questions. They are hungry to know more about the Emmaus Walk, our Emmaus Community, and how all the committees function. They were excited and enthusiastic!

We have a great opportunity to mentor these recent Pilgrims! Some Teams are having a training session with First Time Conference Room Team Members and this is an excellent idea. Why not have a training session with All First Time Team Members? How beneficial would this be to helping a FTTM (First Time Team Member) feel more comfortable and involved. I was surprised when one First Timer commented they were

(Please See Farr Page 3.)

Learn

Grow

Repeat

Christ at the Center of Our Lives: Made by Him and For Him

By David Socha, Community Spiritual Director

Colossians 1:16 says, "For in Him all things are created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him." The Him is a reference to Jesus, the image of the "invisible God" mentioned in the verse prior to verse 16. These verses are some of the most beautiful and theologically rich statements about Jesus in the New Testament. Many scholars believed they comprised an early hymn circulated among believers in the first century.

When Paul says that all things were made by Him and for Him, he is expressing Jesus' superior role in creation. Several verses at the beginning of Colossians highlight and elevate Jesus' status as the Son of God over creation.

Paul is saying that Jesus has the ultimate position of honor and holds divine power over all the created order. Everything in creation was made by Jesus, through Jesus and for Jesus. In other words, all things were created for Him in order

(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!**

We still have availability for some of these Walks.

Walk 543 (M) – August 13-16	23 applications
Walk 544 (W) – Sept 10-13	11 applications
Walk 545 (W) – Sept 24-27	11 applications
Walk 546 (M) – October 15-18	0 applications
Walk 547 (W) – November 5-8	5 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!

Socha

(continued from Page 1)

to bring Him glory and to display God's power.

This beautiful gift called Emmaus was created by Jesus, for Jesus to bring people to Himself. Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit continues to draw people and send them out to be His hands and feet.

As I prepare to complete this article, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been a privilege to serve as your Community Spiritual Director this year. I have had the opportunity to meet many people and get to know them. This has truly been a blessing to me. Thank you for all your prayers and thoughts during this Emmaus Year.

Our new Community Spiritual Director as of August 1st will be Jeff Fleming. Many of you know and have served with Jeff on many walks. Let us join together to pray for and support Jeff as he allows the Holy Spirit to lead him in the upcoming year. I believe God is going to continue to do great things in the Alabama Emmaus Community. To God be the glory in all things.

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
543	Aug 13-16	Mitch Dobbins	Bradley Hipps	Athens / Shoals / Moulton	Pete Peeden Celia Rudolph
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

*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
<u>2027</u>		
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>

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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

Farr

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surprised that it cost money to serve on a walk.

Our Training Event is an excellent way to help our new Community Members discover what goes on behind the walls of the conference room. How does Agape work, where does all that agape come from and how does it get on the beds? Who makes all those delicious snacks, who changes the altars, and how are the speakers chosen? So many opportunities to help integrate our New Members into our community.

If we want to see this experience we call Emmaus continue to change lives and develop leaders in our homes, churches, and communities, we must become active mentors guiding, answering questions, helping new members develop into active members of our churches, communities, and our Emmaus Community.

Make a Difference for Eternity!

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.

SuBette Crisp (275) and **Bob Crisp (289)** on the passing of SuBette's mom, Betty Sims.

Amy Kay (514) on the loss of her husband, Joey Kay.

Larry (132) son, and **Julie (279) Caine, Caryl (173)** daughter, and Dave Hadder, grandchildren - Britni and **Scottie Blair (513)**, Alan and Sara Hadder, and Timothy and Becky Caine in the death of their father and grandfather, **Harold Caine (103)**

The family of **Jeanette McGeever (259)**

Walter O. "Skip" Lowery (255) in the death of his father, Walter O. Lowery, Sr.

The family of **Betty Jeffrey (21)**

Stephanie Robertson (543) in the death of her Mom, **Sue Douglas (259)**

Chuck Johnston, husband (222) and **John David Richardson (222)**, brother-in-law in the death of **Linda Johnston (198)**

Roger Short (205) in the death of his wife, **Jeri Short (443)**.

Cindy Kenamer (390) in the death of **Clifford Kenamer (378)**

The family of **Ray Odell (361)**

Alabama Emmaus Walk 543 August 13-16, 2026

Lay Director Mitch Dobbins - Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Frederick Martin
Michael Carr - Priority
Wes Canestrari - Fourth Day
Jonathan Killen
Joe Peeden
Jack McDaniel

Spiritual Director Bradley Hipps - Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Bart Bowlin- Prevenient Grace
Tony Latham - Obstacles to Grace
Greg Patrick - Sanctifying Grace
Gary Formby - Justifying Grace

Music Chairperson Katie Dobbins

Assistant Table Leaders

Austin Blankenship - Body of Christ
Pat Seal - Changing our World
Willie Jones - Piety
Don Kirk - Discipleship
Grayson Bailey - Christian Action
Bob Young - Grow through Study
Adam Holland - Priesthood

Table Leaders

David Twesme
Robbie Taymon
Barry Blankenship
Gary Jester
Charles Woodroof
Fred Mason
Tom Wissert

Board Reps

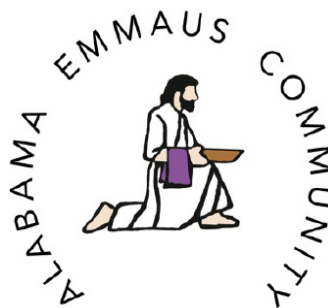
Pete Peeden
Celia Rudolph
Sheilah Wiginton

Committees

Agape	Kay Seale	256-566-5736
Meal Service	Jean Peeden	256-627-1175
Refreshments	Revonda Twesme	256-762-9964
Prayer Vigil	Revonda Twesme	256-762-9964
Housing	Janie Alcorn	256-710-7739
Candlelight	Georgia McCaig	256-366-5949
Clean-up	Frederick Martin	256-874-0957
Closing	Tom Murphy	256-614-2312
Entertainment	Don Shelton	256-214-2454
Follow-up	Janice Alcorn	256-710-7739
Prayer Chapel	Wannell Scott	256-740-2597
Sponsors' Hour	Jim Maynard	256-755-6096
Worship	Richard Martin	256-434-2218
Photographer	Chad Bottcher	256-759-8908
Humble Servant	Mary Lee Dobbins	256-366-6322

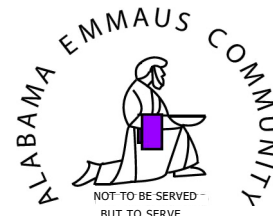
Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Bric Latham	Altoona	David Socha & Lisa Socha
Alex Cate	Athens	Logan Moore Cate
Joel Downs	Athens	Dana Downs
Garth Lovvorn	Athens	John Garrett & Richard Martin, Jr.
Matt Magnusson	Athens	James Hampton Tanksley
Greg McAlister	Athens	Freddy Leonard
Brian Nelson	Athens	Brian Moore & Jim Maynard
Greg Stewart	Athens	Leah Beth McNutt
Kelo Todd	Athens	Grayson Bailey & Richard Martin, Jr.
Derek Williams	Athens	John Christopher Batts
Robby Chamblee	Birmingham	Bob Murray
Tim Nugent	Boaz	Rena Kennedy & Teresa Word
Parker Rains	Boaz	Justin Dunn & Tashina Dunn
Shaun Fuller	Florence	Skip Hopson & Chris Weldon
Ronnie McNutt	Florence	Sheila McNutt
Mark Brickey	Guntersville	Lanette Thompson
Evan Santos	Haleyville	Brooke McNeal & David McNutt
Ray Allister	Huntsville	Ken Albrecht & Jackie Carrico Albrecht
Bryan Parris	Jacksonville	Ted Anderson & Judy Hay Anderson
Rory Rudolph	Madison	Sanders Woodroof
Mark Newton	McCalla	Vicki Herring & David Townsend
Danny Kermicle	Rogersville	Kathy Kermicle & Mitsy Clemons
Bruce Ballentine	Wellington	David Bryant





Alabama Emmaus Community
Annual Overnight Training Event
Retreat Center - Camp Sumatanga
August 14-15, 2026
Registration from 5-7 PM



Serving on an Emmaus team is something to be anticipated! It can be an ultimate form of service and a source of blessing to the giver and the receiver. Is this your calling? Would you like to know more? This is your golden opportunity! The Alabama Emmaus Annual Training Event for team service is to be August 14 & 15, 2026. The training sessions will be enjoyable as well as informative. As with any Emmaus event, there will be food, fun, fellowship, and music. Come spend some quiet time at camp, renew old friendships, and make some new ones. This is a great event for your new pilgrims!

All training sessions will be held on Saturday. This is your information sheet and registration form. You may copy this form as needed. Please note the deadline for registration! On the second page of this form is the tentative schedule of events and a list of classes. Please fill out the "Registration for Classes" section with the classes you would like to attend.

The costs for housing and meals are also listed on the second page. Participants will stay in Buildings 1, and 2, and rooms are first come, first served. If you wish to serve the pilgrims of Walk 543, which will be the same weekend, you must contact the Food Service Chairperson of that walk. Remember, there is a limit to the number of servers. Meals for the Training Event will be in Lodge Dining Room. Rooms may be secured for Friday and/or Saturday nights. **A registration fee of \$5.00 is requested of each person who attends the Training Event.** This fee covers materials that will be provided. Please submit your form by July 31st. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact **Debra Baker (256)558-1440** or email debrakirbybaker@gmail.com.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TODAY TO CHARLIE BAKER
AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW
Registration Deadline is July 31, 2026

Name: _____

Cluster: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (Cell) _____

(Home) _____

Email: _____

Walk # _____

TOTAL HOUSING	\$
TOTAL MEALS WITHOUT	\$
PARTICIPATION FEE *PER PERSON*	\$ 5.00
TOTAL PAYABLE PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALABAMA EMMAUS COMMUNITY	\$

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM

TO: Charles Baker

1020 Tick Duckett Rd

Albertville, AL 35951

Cell (256) 558-1440

debrakirbybaker@gmail.com

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, August 14th

5:00-7:00 Registration, 2nd Floor, McKinney-Atkins
 6:00 Dinner, Lodge Dining Room
 7:00 Welcome & Singing
 7:15 Memorial Service
 8:00 Break
 8:15 Guest Speaker
 8:45 Lane Berry, Alabama Emmaus Coordinator
 9:00 Singing and Announcements
 9:15 Good Night

Saturday, August 15th

8:00-8:30 Breakfast in Lodge Dining Room
 8:00 Registration, 2nd Floor McKinney-Atkins
 8:45 Singing and Announcements
 9:00 Devotion, Guest speaker, CLD
 9:30 Break and move to Class 1
 10:00 Class 1
 10:45 Move to Class 2
 11:00 Class 2
 12:00 Lunch in Lodge Dining Room
 1:00 Move to Class 3
 1:15 Class 3
 2:00 Dismiss with prayer in your last class. Hope you
 hang around and attend Candlelight at 7:45. Ashville has
 several places to eat. (Jack's, Subway, and a Mexican Restaurant
 in a strip mall with Piggly Wiggly)

TENTATIVE CLASSES

Sponsorship (HOW TO BE A GREAT SPONSOR)
Candlelight
Assistant Lay Directors
Table Leaders & Assistant Table Leaders
Music
Refreshments
Housing & Registration
Sponsor's Hour/ Closing / Follow-Up
Speaker's Prayer Chapel / 72 Hour Prayer Vigil
Agape
Meal Service
Worship
Tech Support
Permanent Committee Duties
Serving in your Cluster

REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES

CHOICE #1 _____

CHOICE #2 _____

CHOICE #3 _____

HOUSING AND MEAL INFORMATION

Participants will be housed in the buildings at the Retreat Center. Each room has two double beds and a bathroom with a shower. Linens are furnished. Handicap accessible rooms are available on request.

Please circle the option you are choosing. Room cost includes Friday Dinner, Saturday Breakfast, and Saturday Lunch. Those staying at Camp Ground need to order meals.

ACCOMODATIONS Retreat Center (<i>circle one</i>)	NO. OF NIGHTS	COST PER PERSON PER NIGHT	TOTAL COST
1 Person for 1 night or more		104.00	
2 Persons for 1 night or more		70.00	
3 Persons for 1 night or more		63.00	
4 Persons for 1 night or more		60.00	
Camp Ground 1 night or more		40.00	

IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL, IT MUST BE DONE BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH OR YOU WILL BE LIABLE FOR ANY RESERVATIONS MADE

Meal Rates: Rates for anyone not staying overnight. Dinner, breakfast, and lunch are included for anyone staying overnight. Meals will be served in Lodge Dining Room.

MEALS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	TOTAL
Breakfast		\$10.00	
Lunch		\$12.00	
Dinner	\$15.00	N/A	

NOTE: These meals will not be in the dining room with the pilgrims of Walk 543. If you wish to serve a meal on Walk 543, please contact the Food Service Chairperson of that walk. If room to serve is available, make reservations and pay the walk meal service chairperson at the time you serve.