



## Community Humble Servants

### Lay Director

Teresa Holderfield

### Spiritual Director

Gary Formby

### Asst. Lay Director

Deanna Shotts

### Asst. Spiritual Director

John Simmons

### Community Coordinator

Angel Rait

### Treasurer

Jim Sims

### Board Representatives

Donna Ambrosius

Debra Baker

Karen Cotton

Bob DeHaven

Tami Glenn

Jane Hagler

Clay Hammond

Sherry Johnson

Danny Lemley

Randy Nelson

Sandy Parker

Stirling Rait

Jaime Rickert

Deanna Shotts

Melanie Skillman

Jennifer Swinney

### Literature

Patricia Bush

### Supplies

Amy Talton

### Community Agape

Bruce Parris

### Name Tags

Dan Bell

## Bloom Where You Are Planted

By Teresa Holderfield, Community Lay Director

Dear Alabama Emmaus Family,

I am so excited to be your 2021 Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director. I am looking forward to things getting back to some semblance of normalcy soon. During this time of waiting and being isolated whether it is working remotely at home or watching church services on-line, it is time to bloom where we are planted.

I love to work in the dirt whether it be flowers or vegetables. Winter is kind of slow in this area. I do have some pansies blooming and some cabbage in the garden but that is about it.

Have you ever seen a pansy blooming thru a crack in your driveway? That is perseverance.

During this down time with Emmaus walks, we can

- cultivate friendships and possible pilgrims for upcoming walks



- attend our Cluster Meetings whether it be in large open rooms or on Zoom
- stay connected.

We can bloom where we are planted, be fruitful, blossom and become all we were created to be. Let us make the best of life when it throws lemons at us, let's make lemonade. We can take advantage of the opportunities we have and be grateful for the present situation.

(Please See Holderfield Page 2.)

## Becoming Great Like Christ

By Gary Formby, Community Spiritual Director

What kind of greatness chooses to empty self, taking the form of a slave, and being found in human form humbles self, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross? (Phil. 2: 7-8) The answer to that question is the very opposite of what we hail as great in most of our common life together today! Of course human pride hates to believe in such deep humility as we see in Christ. This is nothing new. Hasn't it always been this way?

One of the things I love about the unfolding experience of an Emmaus Walk is the unfolding of God's grace that does not stop short of Sanctifying Grace which reveals that God is not through with us until the meek heart of Christ, his words and his works are incarnate in us here and now. This of course is the challenge of our lives as we live together. It is a life time project! When I hear Paul telling Christian Philippians to have the mind of Christ who emptied and humbled himself, I find myself needing to keep such words as emptied and humbled in the present particle, emptying and humbling. I certainly haven't arrived yet but I find great strength as I remember God hasn't given up on me and stills believes in me and knows what I can become. His sanctifying grace still encourages me.

The best definition of sanctifying grace I've ever heard came from a humble farmer when asked by his preacher, "How are you doing today?" He said, "Well preacher, I'm not the man I use to be and I'm not the man I hope to be, but I'm more the man I'd like to be than I've ever been before!" Grace to you in your becoming great like Christ!

Gary

# Holderfield (continued from Page 1)

First, work on cultivating the right mentality. Try to appreciate the present and accept changes and setbacks.

Second, look for opportunity where we can. Take up challenges, make connections, and work your hardest.

Last, make the most of each day. Try to be a positive force from one day to the next and, eventually, you will bloom.

Time grows the seeds that are planted, watered, and fertilized. Plant beauty, grow beauty. Plant thorns, grow thorns. Time will allow for either.

Lord, I don't want the thorns of bitterness or anger or resentment to grow in my heart. I want to be a woman with a heart overflowing with Your beauty and Your love. Help me as I choose to plant seeds of mercy and grace, love and forgiveness. And do a deep healing work in every piece of my heart. In Jesus' name, amen.

DeColores!

Teresa Holderfield  
2021 Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director

## I'M A CLUSTER LEADER – NOW WHAT?

The 2021 Cluster Leadership Training will be held via Zoom from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 27. As a 2021 Cluster Leader, you will not want to miss this valuable training! The Community Coordinator, Angel Rait, will send you your invitation to the Zoom meeting the week of the event. Please be sure you have the Zoom app downloaded on your device.

During the training you will be provided with Community lists and schedules you'll need throughout the year. You'll meet members of the Emmaus Board and Permanent Committee members. These events also include a time for sharing ideas for Cluster growth and development, so you'll really want to be a part of this training. Mark your calendar now!

## Tentative 2021 Walk Schedule

<u>WALK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
494	Aug 12-15	W
495	Aug 26-29	M
496	Sep 9-12	W
497	Oct 14-17	M

## Tentative 2022 Walk Schedule

<u>WALK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
498	Feb 10-13	W
499	Mar 3-6	W
500	Mar 17-20	M
501	April 21-24	W
502	May 19-22	W
503	June 16-19	M
504	July 7-10	M
505	Sep 8-11	W
506	Sep 22-25	W
507	Oct 20-23	M

***Any changes to this tentative schedule will be announced at a later date should a need arise to alter further.***

**With the 2021 Walks postponed, there will be no income for the Community until the walks resume in August. If you would like to give a love offering, please make checks to the Alabama Emmaus Community and mail them to Community Treasurer Jim Sims at 535 Sims Road, Oneonta, AL 35121.**

# Always Christmas

By Angel Rait, Community Coordinator

2020 has been a very different year indeed, with all the Covid, masks, social distancing, and even having my hours cut back at work. Even though we were careful, my husband and I had Covid over Christmas, which was a very different and quiet Christmas. For 3 weeks, we got out of the bed and literally drug ourselves to the den to our recliners. But before we got settled in our chairs one of us would turn on the Christmas tree. It was THE LIGHT in the room - physically and spiritually.

The lights were warming to our souls and the ornaments gave us constant memories. We have a nine-foot-tall tree, and the lights just draw you in, and then you start seeing the lifetime of memories in the ornaments. There is the ornament I made when I was 5 years old. The ornament we were given as a wedding gift in 1977. The ornament of when we bought our first house. The ornaments my mom gave us when each of our girls were born. The one the Youth gave us for serving with them. The extra special one when we became grandparents. All of our pets, past and current, have an ornament, and there are dozens of crosses all over the tree.

We didn't feel good because of Covid, but it didn't dampen the Spirit of Christmas. We opened our presents on New Year's Day and enjoyed our Christmas tree until January 15th when we finally felt well enough to take it all down. During one of the services that we watched online, our pastor asked each of us to keep something out from our Christmas decorations to keep the Christmas Spirit going. I chose these 2 things. One is the Christ Candle from our Advent wreath - the one we lit on Christmas Day. The other item I kept out was our manger. I have my parent's nativity that they purchased on their trip to the Holy Lands. It is very special to me, but it did not have a manger. I finally found the right one a few years ago, and it is perfect. In the middle of the manger where you put the baby Jesus, there is a cross etched into the wood - a constant reminder of how God sent Jesus as a baby to save us from our sins on the cross. I have these set in my hallway where I walk by them every day when I go to my office. Just a little reminder of Christmas and how when we let the light of Christ shine through us for others to see, then it is always Christmas.

DeColores,

Angel Rait, sjc #173



## Praying For You

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

To **Rev. Wayne Hicks (321)** in the loss of his father, Rev. Larry Hicks

To the family of **Joanne Bailey (307)**

To **Faith Harris (146)** in the loss of her husband, **Wes Harris (147)**

To **Wendy Wright (399)** in the loss of her husband, **Doug Wright (404)**

To the family of **Becky Dickenson (300)**

To the family of **Kenneth Barnes (304)**

To the family **Gabe Bassinger (488)**

To the family of **Larry Broadfoot (280)**

To **Jennie Lee Cabler (197)** in the lost of her husband, **Jim Cabler (191)**

To the family of **Charlie Edwards (361)**

To **Judy Jenkins (320)** in the loss of her husband, **Bill Jenkins (321)**

To **Stephanie Lawler (225)** in the loss of her husband, **David Lawler (220)**

To the family of **Mary McCorkle (217)**

To **Alton Parris (7)** in the loss of his wife, **Jimmie Ruth Parris (8)**

To **Marie Stribling (348)** in the loss of her husband, **Sam Stribling (297)**

To the family of **Larry Young (299)**

### *The Grapevine*

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