

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

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February 2020

Community Humble Servants

Terrie Alexander
Lay Director

Dorothy Ann Webster
Spiritual Director

Teresa Holderfield
Asst. Lay Director

Gary Formby
Asst. Spiritual Director

Angel Rait
Community Coordinator

Jim Sims
Treasurer

Donna Ambrosius
Debra Baker
Linda Case
Karen Cotton
Tami Glenn
Teresa Holderfield
Sherry Lockhart
Dian Long
Dianna McQueen
Jackie Mize
Brian Moore
Kay Parker-Phillips
Jaime Rickert
Deanna Shotts
Melanie Skillman
Paul Webb
Board Representatives

Patricia Bush
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Bruce Parris
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

2020: Emmaus Year of Change

By **TERRIE ALEXANDER**
Lay Director

Dear Emmaus Family,

I hope you are having a great start to your New Year filled with wonderful blessings. I am looking forward to serving as your Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director for 2020.

This coming year could possibly be described as the “Year of Change.” Of course, change can bring up all kinds of feelings and emotions as change can be seen as both a positive and a negative matter. I always feel that changes bring me out of my comfort zone, which I suppose, is leaning toward the negative view of change since I really enjoy my comfort zone. I see myself acting more like the people in the church at Laodicea from John’s writing in Revelation 3:14, calling them “lukewarm – neither hot nor cold.” Now I think of change as God’s way of getting me out of my lukewarm comfort zone situation and into learning and growing opportunities.

In looking toward this 2020 Emmaus “Year

of Change,” I think of how we did something different with sponsorship, which started more excitement flowing through the clusters for sponsoring. This spirit of sponsoring increased our numbers of pilgrims and helped the cluster leaders begin to keep up with how their numbers can grow from year to year. Hopefully the changes at Camp Sumatanga, which affect our Alabama Emmaus Community, will spark the same type of excitement even though we will be leaving our lukewarm comfort zone, so to speak. We will be stepping into a better way of changing not only our hearts and minds, but also opening the door to a closer walk with our Lord.

In closing, I would like to go to the writings of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:4 which says, “I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.” (New Century Version) Let us do all things because of God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

I thank God for the Alabama Emmaus Family! Terrie Alexander, Lay Director, Alabama Emmaus Community

Walks serve to feed us all

By **DOROTHY ANN WEBSTER**
Spiritual Director

As I sit looking out the window in our study, there is great activity! We have bird feeders, and the birds are enjoying the opportunity to feast on a diversity of seed. Back and forth they flit. The colors and patterns in their feathers are a delight. God certainly is creative!

I remember a cartoon I saw years ago. Two birds sat up on a line, looking down at a church. People were coming to the church from all directions. One bird said to the other, “Must be some kind of feeding station!”

Indeed, our churches should be “some kind of feeding stations!” The kind that give spiritual food, emotional support and even good, hot meals on occasion, for a whole variety of folks. That happens when we, the priesthood of believers, serve as the hands and feet of God in our churches as well as in our homes and our

communities. It happens when we study and pray with one another. It happens when we worship together.

One of the beauties of Emmaus is that it prepares us to get more involved in our churches, helping “set the table” and “fill the feeders” with the blessings of nourishment God gives to us. Next time you hear a call that volunteers are needed, or you see something around the church that needs doing, consider stepping in to help. You can help ensure that our churches are, indeed, wondrous feeding stations, sharing the bounty God provides.

And while you are at it, think about inviting a friend to experience the feeding station that is Emmaus. Sponsoring a pilgrim is a great way to invite someone to enjoy God’s goodness.

DeColores!
Dorothy Ann

2020 WALK SCHEDULE

#492	W	Feb 20-23
	Bham E/Bham S/S Shelby	
#493	M	Mar 5-8
	Cheaha/E Alabama	
#494	W	Mar 19-2
	Franklin/Haleyville/Hamilton	
#495	M	Apr 23-26
	Blount/Cullman	
#496	W	May 14-17
	Shoals/Athens/Moulton-Decatur	
#497	M	Jun 4-7
	Tuscaloosa/W Alabama	
#498	W	Jul 16-19
	Gadsden/Marshall/Cherokee-Dekab	
#499	W	Jul 30-Aug 2
	Huntsville	
#500	M	Aug 13-16
	Bham E/Bham S/S Shelby	
#501	W	Sept 17-20
	Cheaha/E Alabama	

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Sumatanga changes mean Emmaus changes

By ANGEL RAIT

Community Coordinator

Happy New Year Emmaus Community!

2020 has many new changes in store for us at Camp Sumatanga and for Alabama Emmaus.

I would like to share a few things that you need to know if you are planning to be a Sponsor. One of the biggest changes is that the Housing Committee will now welcome your Pilgrim at the Camp Sumatanga office, which is the McKinney/Atkins Building, rather than at Hutto. There your Pilgrim will then be given a room number to stay in the Retreat Center, specifically Buildings 1 & 2. There will still be 3 people staying in a room and Pilgrims still need to bring their twin bedding and towels, just like before. Every room will have their own bathroom instead of having to go down the hall.

After Sponsors get the Pilgrim's bed made, they will drive to the Hutto lobby as usual for the gathering. An ALD will be there to check the Pilgrim's name off. Sponsors Hour will start after the Pilgrims go downstairs. On Sunday, night sponsors will retrieve their Pilgrim's bedding and belongings for his/her room in Buildings 1 & 2 **before** attending closing at 4:45. All of this is explained in the new Sponsor letter, including a map to show where everything is located.

Remember Sponsors, if you wish to serve a meal while your pilgrim is there, you must call the Chair of Meal Service prior to the start of the Walk.

Another change Emmaus has for 2020 is a new application to attend a Walk. This can be found on the web site (alaemmaus.org). It can be filled out online and please notice that now there is a place for Co-Sponsors on the application. You also may choose to receive email notification rather than sending a stamped envelope to mail.

It is exciting to share that God is also blessing us with an abundance of people wanting the Emmaus experience and the applications received are increasing. Please note that this means you *may not* get the Walk you are requesting as applications are processed in the order they are received.

The schedule of Walks is listed on the Alabama Emmaus website. For the first time in many years, Walks are scheduled during the summer. This is perfect for all of those "teacher friends" who have always wanted to attend but had difficulty taking time away from their students.

The Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors is asking you, not just potential sponsors but the entire Emmaus Community, to help us as we implement these changes. The best way you can help with that is by your prayers and patience. Pray for the teams, the Pilgrims, the Sponsors, the Camp and the Emmaus Board as we are **all** adjusting to these changes.

Good things are happening at Camp and Emmaus, Praise God!! Thank you for continuing to sponsor. We would not exist without you! Please call me or any Board Member if you have any questions about these "new happenings."

De Colores! Angel Rait, sjc #173

Many exciting changes taking place at Camp

As many of you have learned by now, Camp Sumatanga was closed during the month of December for repairs to the water tank. That has been completed and Camp is back online and open for business.

The campaign in November to raise funds for this project and to defray year-end bills brought in approximately \$144,000.

In April of last year, the Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church formed an Action Team to look at every aspect of the sustainability of the camp. At that time, Daphne Orr became the Interim Executive Director.

The Action Team was to look at the entire function and governance of the camp and take over operations for a year. That timeframe has been extended through the end summer of this year for both the Action Team and Daphne Orr.

For many years Sumatanga has been dependent upon support from the Conference and other donations. Over time, it expanded from summer campers to hosting a full range of events for all ages. In the last 10-15 years, the Conference support has dropped from \$400,000 to \$17,000 annually.

There are 90 buildings that were heated, cooled and insured, many of which had 20% occupancy. This resulted in fixed costs being 65% of income. Obviously, a business plan became necessary to streamline operation and result in cost effectiveness. There will always be a need for donors, but this should not exceed 20% of operating costs. Phase I of the plan involves closure of selected buildings and bringing service focus back to the constituencies listed in the Action Team Communique of Oct. 25, 2019:

PRIMARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Summer Camp 2020 and beyond – overnight camps and day camps
- Recurring hosted group functions such as Emmaus, Be-

Additionally, the Camp is now open February - October to further reduce costs.

As a result, there are now Emmaus Walk dates in June and July.

hold, North Alabama Conference meetings, Academy of Spiritual Formation, Camp Farthest Out, UMW, Exit 456, and individual Church retreats

- New hosted revenue-generating functions

The Sumatanga staff and volunteer teams will focus on upkeep in Pool Camp, the Retreat Centers, Hutto Auditorium, Hundley Dining Room and McKinney-Atkins, making the needed improvements. Conversely, the following buildings will be closed after November 25, 2019: Lodge sleeping rooms, Eva Walker, Guest House and East Wing sleeping rooms. In their present condition, those areas do not meet our Sumatanga standards for hospitality. At this time, there is not a timeline for reopening those areas.

This explains moving the lodging of Emmaus Pilgrims from the East Wing of the Lodge to Retreat Centers 1 and 2. Additionally, the Camp is now open February – October to further reduce costs. As a result, there are now Emmaus Walk dates in June and July.

The Action Team has given much consideration to the Alabama Emmaus Community. Stay in touch with your Alabama Emmaus Community Board Members for updates to this continuing transformation of Camp Sumatanga.

UPCOMING WALKS					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
493	Mar 5-8	Chuck Belitz	John James	Cheaha/E Alabama	Paul Webb/ Dian Long
494	Mar 19-22	Carla Roberts	Tim Alexander	Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton	Jackie Mize/ Deanna Shotts
495	Apr 23-26	David Speegle	Mac Buttram	Blount/Cullman	Kay Parker Phillips/ Melanie Skillman
496	May 14-17	Rosemary Lewey	Tony Jones	Shoals/Athens/ Moulton-Decatur	Brian Moore/ Tami Glenn
497	Jun 4-7	Butch Burgess	Lynn Gibson	Tuscaloosa/WAL	Sherry Lockhart/ Jaime Rickert
498	Jul 16-19	Tami Kelley	Paul Vick	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Teresa Holderfield/ Debra Baker
*Men's Walk		Reminder: Candlelight service begins at 7:45; Closing begins at 4:45. Please remember that children are <i>not</i> to be present in Hutto or at meals during a walk!			

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 493
March 5-8, 2020**

Lay Director	Charles Belitz (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Butch Fennell (Priority) James Dodwell (Fourth Day) Stirling Rait Alan Brown Randy Nelson Barry Thompson
Spiritual Director	John James (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Ted Anderson (Prevenient Grace) Lloyd Gibbs (Justifying Grace) James Fields (Sanctifying Grace) Amy Parsons-Vaughn (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Don Saxton
Asst. Table Leaders	Zach Dollar (Priesthood) Wilson Webb (Study) Dennis Murphy (Discipleship) TBA (Changing Our World) Jim Starnes (Christian Action) Bill Goodwin (Body of Christ) Kyle Shelton (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Chuck Cohron Roy Davis Ronnie Harris Don Johnson Leigh Murphy Mike Parker Terry Womack
Board Reps.	Paul Webb, Dian Long

Committees

Agape:	Kelli Sauder	256-835-1389
Meal Service:	Donald Neese	256-596-2100
Refreshments:	Judy Thompson	256-239-3314
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Rhonda Nelson	256-404-2502
Housing:	Kathy Mitchell	256-794-5196
Candlelight:	Mr. G Scroggins	706-766-4102
Clean-up:	Jamie Anderson	256-525-1031
Closing:	Julie Anderson	256-452-0343
Entertainment:	Mr. G Scroggins	
Follow-up:	Linda Kociaba	256-820-1931
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Sylvia Cashen	256-435-8880
Sponsors' Hour:	Patrice Booth	256-234-9251
Worship:	Brenda Kent	256-362-3753
Photographer:	Deb Hendrick	256-861-2000
Humble Servant:	Judy Belitz	256-362-6412

Name	City	Sponsor
Hardy Thompson	Alabaster	Jerry Nelson
Rick Hannefield	Albertville	Brian Franks
Steven Porter	Athens	Tony Jones
Jason Sandlin	Athens	Glenn Stokes
Curley Koetter	Birmingham	Danny Harris
Ben Sanders	Birmingham	Debra & Mike Teague
Todd Thomas	Boaz	Josh Brogdon
Jason Alcorn	Cullman	Stan Wood
John Gravette	Elora	Nancy Nolan
Rob Gullett	Florence	Gary Jester
Gary Scarbrough	Florence	Mark & Jeanette Custer, Branda McManus
Tom Hayes	Guntersville	Phillip Mann
Jeff Slaughter	Gurley	Billy Glover
Doug Smartt	Hazel Green	Chris Burnham
David Soreano	Helena	Stephen Collins
J.D. Carden	Helena	Gene Ingram
Brian Henley	Helena	Jerry Nelson
Wayne Selby	Huntsville	Billy Glover
Greg Hagler	Huntsville	Rolo Weaver
Andy Robinson	Jacksonville	Bernice George
Scott Nesmith	Lucedale	Jeannie Nesmith
Rusty Chambers	Mentone	Shawn Willingham, Paul Vick
Ty Ford	Meridian	Charles Bush
TJ Williford	Montgomery	Michael Mezick & Cameron Dodwell
Lee Evans	Northport	Brian Boyington
Gregory Nicholas	Oneonta	oe Hastings & Neal Brooks
Bob Duke	Piedmont	Don Johnson
Jerry Stewart	Piedmont	Marsel Emigh
Jason Roberts	Ralph	Clay Barns & Lee Hamilton
Shane Petree	Red Bay	Jeff Frame
Stephen Thornton	Springville	Marshall Tucker, Chip Vann & Robert Rachel
Travis Earnest	Tuscaloosa	Dave Bailey

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 494
March 19-22, 2020**

Lay Director	Carla Roberts (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	April Terrell (Priority) Joan Cleveland (Fourth Day) Kathy Hall Konnie Thrasher Freda Crumpton Kitty Frederick
Spiritual Director	Tim Alexander (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Jeff Fleming (Prevenient Grace) Mitch Nethery (Justifying Grace) Preston Headrick (Sanctifying Grace) Elliott Gordon (Obstacles)
Music	Debbie Wood
Asst. Table Leaders	JJ Headrick (Priesthood) Carlin Burrow(Study) Pam Putman (Discipleship) Jodi Turlove (Changing Our World) Jolene Stockton (Christian Action) Willa Dean Gregg (Body of Christ) Joanne Cox (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Laura Beth Roberts Amber Steward Sandi Weiler Melissa Rice Pattie Gann Pam Putman Lean Torisky Anne Vinson
Board Reps.	Jackie Mize, Deanna Shotts

Committees

Agape:	Ricky Hall	256-810-8988
Meal Service:	Tony Mize	205-486-2787
Refreshments:	Nancy Bowling	256-577-0863
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Jan Page	256-356-9946
Housing:	Jennifer Swinney	256-627-0731
Candlelight:	Pat Seal	256-412-4701
Clean-up:	Diane Karr	205-921-7382
Closing:	Johnny Hardin	256-436-5646
Entertainment:	Sheila Jones	205-932-3534
Follow-up:	Dolores Sparks	256-668-2141
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jerry Gann	205-412-8545
Sponsors' Hour:	Lynda Hall	205-412-0410
Worship	Ponda Gordon	256-627-3627
Photographer:	Jeremy Roberts	205-412-4055
Humble Servant:	Jeremy Roberts	

Name	City	Sponsor
Sandra Garris	Ashville	Gary Garris & Chip Vann
Marie Taymon	Athens	Clay Jackson
Karen Lenz	Athens	Clay Jackson
Margaret Beck	Athens	Cathy Brett
Jennifer Bass	Birmingham	Carrie Baskin
Tammy Jones	Birmingham	Tosha Phillips & Jennilee Ross
Peggy Lowery	Boaz	Jacque Clay
Pamela Blackmon	Calera	Terri Milstead & Cindi Sapp
Janet Huffman	Childersburg	Kim Warren
Virginia Paul	Decatur	Dorothy Ann and Fred Webster
Shirley McCracken	Duncanville	Rob Stringfellow
Allene Crew	Fayette	Dana Gilliam
Laura Chambers	Franklin	Mark George
Freida Taft	Guntersville	Barbara Harris
Amanda Carter	Hackleburg	Greg Gunnin
Heather Wingo	Hayden	Holli Martin
Taylor Vlack	Helena	Liz Walker & Amanda Moore
Ellyn Smith	Huntsville	John Ryberg
Sherrie Rhoads	Huntsville	Rebecca McRoy
Aimee Burnham	Meridianville	Chris Burnham & Brian Burnham
Kay Cherry	Moody	Cynthia Lesley
Priscilla Jones	Moundville	Lynn Gregory
Angel Bailey	Odenville	Pamela Falbo & Chip Vann
JoJo Henry	Pinson	Holli Martin
Kelly Pavkovich	Pinson	Holli Martin
Connie Roe	Prospect	Jennifer Dungan and Jana Killen
Janelle Adams	Springville	Ann Bailey & Chip Vann
Cathy Harris	Springville	Mike Harris
Kathy Newman	Tuscaloosa	Dana Gilliam

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Newsletter of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Walk to Emmaus

Literature options

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

The Alabama Emmaus Community has access to a lot of great books to continue your journey after your Walk. Listed below are some of the books offered to the Community on Saturday night prior to Candlelight.

- Sponsorship
- Coming Down from the Mountain
- Fruit of the Spirit
- What is Chrysalis?
- One in the Spirit
- Spiritual Growth through Team Experience
- The Role of Agape
- Group Reunion
- The Early History
- Day Four

These books are produced by The Upper Room. They are \$6.00 each and are located in the foyer in Hutto. The Board Representatives for the walk occurring will be at the Registration Table to assist you with your purchase.

Worship booklets are also available for \$2 each and DeCOLORES bumper stickers are available for \$1. Worship booklets, Day Four books and DeCOLORES bumper stickers are available on Sunday night prior to Closing.

DeColores!

Kathy Hall, Walk 379 Literature/Permanent Committee

Praying for You

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

To **Roxanne Anderson (204)** in the loss of her husband Fred Anderson (112)

To **Judy Keenum (F2F#1)** in the loss of her husband, Ken Keenum

To **Tom Burson (NC50)** in the loss of his wife **Henrietta Burson (116)**

To the family of **Art Leslie (489)**

To Roberta **Wyckoff (81)** in the loss of her husband **Harry Wyckoff (80)**

To the family of **Rev. Ted Cramer (5)**