

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

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March 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

Changes bring new curves

By **TERRIE ALEXANDER**

Lay Director

Dear Emmaus Family,

As we journey through this time of learning new ways of doing things, I have been thinking of my many journeys through life – both big and small. I am reminded of a message by one of my administrators about how to approach a new phase of education.

She told me to look at the “huge learning curve” you get to travel through. I don’t think I was as excited about it as she was at the time.

The idea of a “learning curve” sent me on another journey down memory lane when my sweet father was teaching me how to drive.

I heard him say, “When you get to a curve in the road, look at it, think about it, and when you get in the middle of it, give it the gas.”

I thought he was just giving me a driving lesson, but now I know he was giving me a life lesson that I will never forget.

That brings me to how I see our Emmaus family in this “huge learning curve” of change.

“...each team has adjusted the wheel and covered the little bumps in the road... Now our challenge is to listen.”

We slowed down; we looked at it; we thought about it, and now we are in the middle of it, giving it the gas and moving through it.

I see how each team has adjusted the wheel and covered the little bumps in the road. These same teams are sharing all the wisdom that they have gained like my Daddy did when he was directing me in my driving lesson.

Now our challenge is to listen and practice these valuable lessons to be ready for the next curve or bump in our journey.

I thank God for my Emmaus family.
DeColores! Terrie Alexander

Spring clean for the soul

By **DOROTHY ANN WEBSTER**
Spiritual Director

As I write this, we are dealing with a backed-up sink at our house. We’ve tried a plunger, and the yuck that it pulled out was...well, yuck! No wonder that sink has been slow to drain! Looks like we may need a professional.

Our lives can get clogged up, too, can’t they? We get too busy, or too busy with the wrong activities, and before you know it our minds and our hearts get clogged.

Worries and stresses can contribute. Our priorities get out of whack, and we lose our focus on Christ. That’s when we need to do some serious de-clogging.

Lent is a good time for de-clogging. In fact, de-clogging is what Lent is all about. It is a time to look closely at our lives; to undergo an “examination of conscience.”

It is a time to consider any obstacles to

grace that we might find, and submit them to the light of God’s love. As we see those obstacles for what they are, we can begin to remove them. Obstacles are a good thing to “give up” for Lent, and beyond!

We may need help removing some obstacles. Spiritual friends, a pastor or spiritual director, or a counselor or therapist can provide help. Certainly, the Holy Spirit is with us to help with the removal.

Then the really important next step of re-focusing our lives on Christ must occur. As one of my colleagues has said, Lent is a time to realize just how much we need Jesus in our lives! Once we are refocused, we are ready to celebrate Easter with fresh and open hearts and minds.

I hope your de-clogging goes well this Lent. Consider it “spring cleaning for your soul!” And then enjoy the fresh breezes of the Holy Spirit, and a joyful Easter filled with new life!

Grace and peace, Dorothy Ann

Board adjusts policy

At the November 2019 meeting of the Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors, changes were made to the Standing Rules. The first is one statement added to the qualifications for clergy:

· At least one of the five clergy serving on an AEC Walk Team must be an Elder in the United Methodist Church.

The other changes were made to the use of PowerPoint slides, and Tech Support Guidelines were revised to reflect them:

Guidelines for slides:

· No PowerPoint presentation should exceed 10 slides representing the main points of the talk, except for the Means of Grace talk, which with discretion, may have up to 15.

a) Presentations shall not include slides of a personal nature unless referenced in the talk.

b) Bullet points clicked on within a slide do not constitute an additional slide.

c) A change in the background of a slide constitutes an additional slide.

All Lay Directors for 2020 have been given these updates and will be using them. Please cooperate in a spirit of charity.

Letters bring 4th Day fun

How long has it been since you went on your Walk? If it's more than five years, this is a great way to spend part of your day – aka 4th Day! Find the letters you received that weekend. Surely you know where they are – right? Take them out and read them again. All those wonderful memories will flood back into your mind and heart! If you haven't looked at them in ten to twenty years, you are in for a treat!!! And yes, there will be tears again! The reasons you had tears in the first place will create them again.

If you have letters from those that are dear who may have now moved to heaven, you will be touched to see the handwriting again. Their thoughts about you will bless you again. It will be as if you can hear them talking to you and you will see again the scenes that surrounded you at that time. Yes, it's a good thing!

If one of the letters is from someone you haven't seen or talked to in a long time, you will feel as if you've just had a visit. It may even prompt one!

Pilgrim letters are indeed special gifts from God. As you read those written to you, you will gain fresh insight regarding those you write today, especially to those you sponsor. Take a minute and enjoy a blessing!

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Office, P.O. Box 38
Cropwell, AL 35054
205-812-0345

Web: www.AlaEmmaus.org

email: Office@AlaEmmaus.org

Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 1016 Sedgefield Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35150, or emailed to DHall92727@aol.com.

Sometimes pleasant, sometimes not

Be aware of the gifts God drops at our feet

By ANGELRAIT

Community Coordinator

Living on the lake exposes us to a bounty of nature, one of my favorites being the majesty of the deer. The heron are another favorite, watching as they so patiently and quietly stalk, often for quite a long time, and then the thrill we experience as we observe them swoop down and get their catch of the day.

We see things that are cute, like pesky raccoons, and we see things that are not so cute like coyote, fox, beaver, snakes, and even armadillo. This past week my husband got to experience something new, a beautiful bald eagle perched in a tree in our front yard. The eagle was brought to his attention by our cats on the front porch, who were restless and really acting strangely.

Stirling finally noticed the eagle on a branch close to the house. The eagle appeared restless, too. Soon, after taking several pictures, Stirling noticed that the eagle had dropped the remains of his morning fish catch in the driveway under a bunch of trees. His enormous wingspan prevented him from having room to fly below the tree branches to retrieve it. When Stirling stepped out on the porch, the eagle majestically flew away.

This event touched me and made me think about what happened in a different way. I think of this eagle as representing God. God has many gifts to give us; some are grand and unexpected, while others are unusual and "smelly." Here is my take on this story.

There was a smell of fish in the air, and the cats on the porch were all over it. They wanted to get to the gift that had been dropped for them on the driveway, but knew that danger was close by.

The eagle was silently controlling the area protecting *his* gift. It wasn't until Stirling stepped out on the porch and the eagle flew away that he even noticed something on the driveway. Let's just imagine that the eagle was God, bringing a gift by our house. Something He had been wanting us to have for a long while.

It was left where we could find it, but there were obstacles (cats) that prevented us from reaching it. God hovered nearby and protected it until He knew it was within our reach. The fish was impressively large, about a 20-inch long bass, but it wasn't pretty. It had been damaged from the fall and being half eaten.

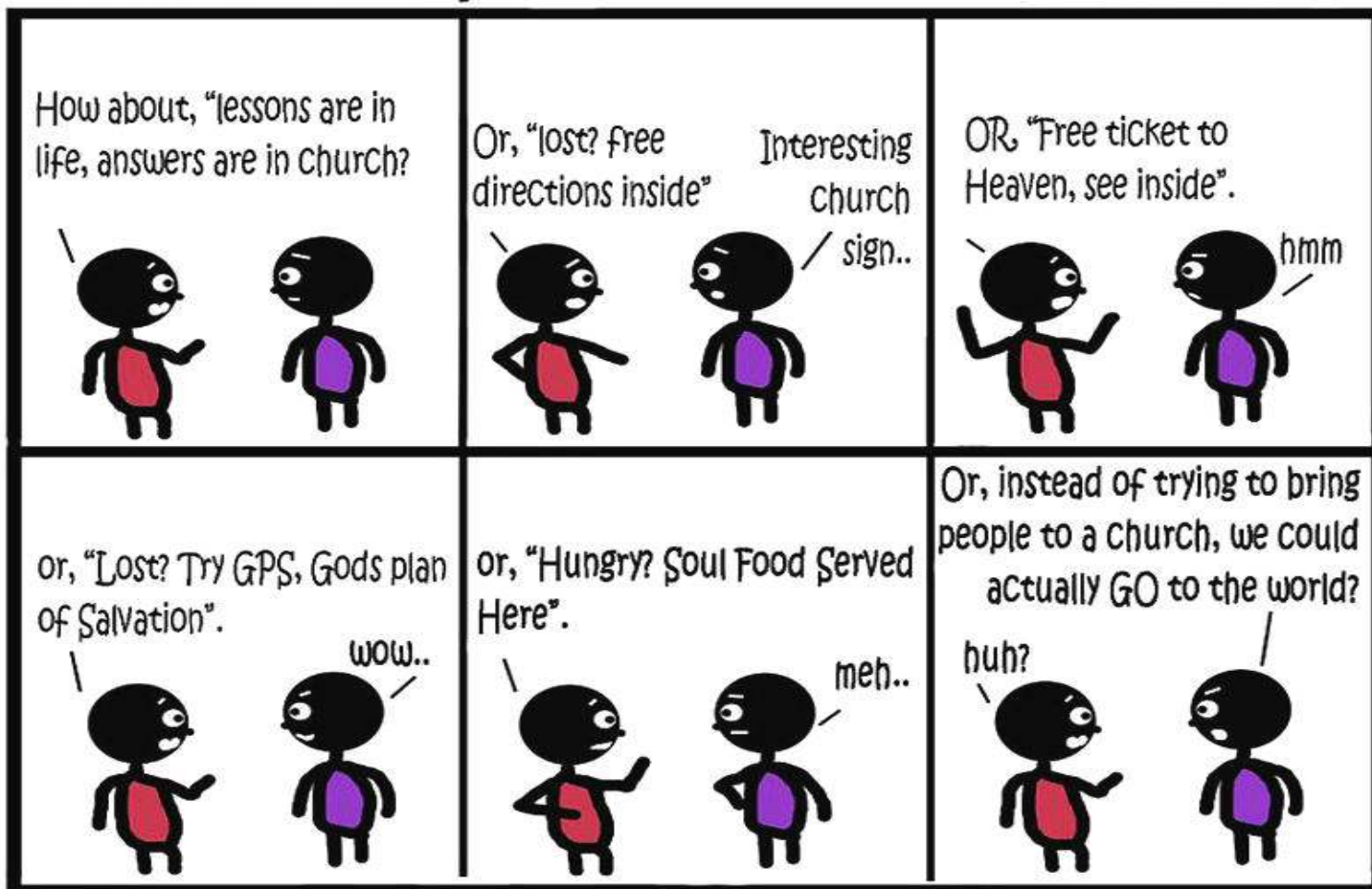
Sometimes our gifts from God are grand and beautiful, and sometimes they are something "smelly" that may seem undesirable. "No God, not this!" But it is the "smelly" gifts that we often need the most. They are something given to share with the "hungry cats on the porch," that don't care at all what the fish looks like; they just want it and love the "giver" for it.

God places people in our lives to love and to show how God has loved us. Sometimes it is pleasant and convenient and all warm and fuzzy. And sometimes we are given an opportunity to be kind to someone who seems very unlovable, a not-so-easy task.

We must not lose any opportunity that God puts in our way. It may be someone that needs an application to attend an Emmaus Walk. Be aware of the gifts God drops at your feet and don't miss an opportunity to share what God has done for you!

Angel Rait, sjc, #173

Frustrated Grace



The Great Con-mission

UPCOMING WALKS

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
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
499	Jul 30-Aug 2	Susan Lewis	Sherrill Clontz	Huntsville	Linda Case/ Karen Cotton

*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!

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 495
April 23-26, 2020**

Lay Director	David Speegle (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Charlie Herfurth (Priority) Rickey Hall (Fourth Day) Jim Doak Mark Skillman Jim Saunders
Spiritual Director	Mac Buttram (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dudley Brock (Prevenient Grace) Brady Hipps (Justifying Grace) Walter Cash (Sanctifying Grace) Richard Saylor (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bob Bentley
Asst. Table Leaders	George Lyrene (Priesthood) Billy Coleman (Study) Gerald Weatherly (Discipleship) Tom LoRoque (Changing Our World) Bob Manney (Christian Action) Trent Compton (Body of Christ) Tim Culpepper (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Bill Peinhart Bob Burgess Doyle Jones Jim Frazier Rocky Stone Bill Barnett Glenn Stokes
Board Reps.	Kay Phillips, Melanie Skillman

Committees

Agape:	Judy Bonds	256-636-2735
Meal Service:	Diane Herfurth	256-708-8740
Refreshments:	Shireen Coleman	256-338-6478
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Gordon Boyd	256-734-3850
Housing:	Bain Brown	205-369-7630
Candlelight:	Mickey Phillips	256-796-8125
Clean-up:	Rita Speegle	256-339-4791
Closing:	Mary Nell Saunders	205-522-4828
Entertainment:	Dianne Herfurth	256-708-8740
Follow-up:	Wendell Copeland	256-734-1135
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Denise Nails	256-566-0987
Sponsors' Hour:	Nella McGraw	
Worship:	Diane Lyrene	256-339-1575
Photographer:	Rita Speegle	256-339-4791
Humble Servant:	Rita Speegle	256-339-4791

Name	City	Sponsor
Rick Hannefield	Albertville	Brian Franks
Tommy Sherrell	Attalla	Crystal Wain/Marina Sherrell
Kevin Hubbard	Birmingham	Jim & Mary Price and Leanoria Sue Keith
Buddy Mills	Booneville	Cheri & Shawn Gober
Michael Wisdom	Buhl	Eric Terrell and Andy Smith
Cole Harrison	Caledonia	Sarah Rickert
Dom DeBell	Columbus	Sarah Rickert
Billy Hunt	Florence	William and April Vaden
Brian Stern	Florence	Barry Phillips and Eric Ross
Mike Smith	Gadsden	Lisa Smith
Brandon Bierley	Helena	Mark Scogin and Paul Hass
Don Cadwalader	Huntsville	Mike and Nancy Nolan
Blake Pattillo	Huntsville	Robert Pendley & Spencer Pendley
Larry Conwill	Huntsville	Bill Smith
Jim DeLary	Huntsville	Ricky Sparks & Phil Patterson
Fred Falbo	Odenville	Chip Vann
Dustin Brown	Sylacauga	Chuck Belitz
Richard Marks	Town Creek	William Vaden and Eric Ross
Zac Langer	Tuscaloosa	Randy Smith
Danny Mitchell	Warrior	Robin & Luann Scott

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 496
May 14-17, 2020**

Lay Director	Rosemary Lewey (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Vicki Morese (Priority) Melanie Little (Fourth Day) Lynn Littrell Cathy Dutton Cathy Brett Melissa Parks
Spiritual Director	Tony Jones (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dudley Brock (Prevenient Grace) Wannell Scott (Justifying Grace) Dale Cohen (Sanctifying Grace) Matt Reed (Obstacles)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Tammy Harvey (Priesthood) Janice Alcorn (Study) Kris Murphy (Discipleship) Katie Dobbins (Changing Our World) Shannon Reed (Christian Action) Ann Lyndon (Body of Christ) Stephanie Hipps (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Kim Taylor Alicia Carpenter Angela Terry Ashley Carter Kay Seale Lisa Keyes Matthews Allison Brooks
Board Reps.	Brian Moore, Tammi Glenn

Committees

Agape:	Barbara Chenault 256-522-7930
Meal Service:	Karen Caine 256-221-4683
Refreshments:	JoAnn Campbell 256-627-4244
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Celia Rudolph 256-381-7201
Housing:	Jack McDaniel 256-655-6283
Candlelight:	Michael Carr 256-415-1339
Clean-up:	Gerald Glover 256-565-0238
Closing:	Adam Hawkins 256-426-5731
Entertainment:	Don Shelton 256-214-2454
Follow-up:	Teddy Owens
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Donna McDaniel 256-421-5008
Sponsors' Hour:	Rob Carpenter 256-221-0145
Worship	Ann Glover 256-566-6560
Photographer:	Frederick Martin
Humble Servant:	Tim Littrell 256-565-8200

Name	City	Sponsor
Emily Sturtz	Athens	Donna Schollian
Robyn Little	Birmingham	Jadell Dunn & Susie Heckathorn
Julie Pappalardo	Birmingham	Suzanne Scott-Trammell & Sherry Harris
Jane Upton	Boaz	Delilah Gibson
Connie Yates	Brent	Melinda Burnett
Charlotte LaGrone	Brent	Melinda Burnett
Christina Richardson	Collinsville	Jennifer Chesnut/ Lydia Tucker
Rachel McCauley	Fayetteville	Angela Steelman
Michelle Williams	Gadsden	Bradley and Sandra Williams
Julia Morrison	Harvest	Jacob Daugherty and Al & Jana Killen
Mona Whitworth	Hazel Green	Whitney Creasy
Sharon Cadwalader	Huntsville	Nancy Nolan and Bonnie Wilson
Jessica Lucas	Kimberly	Vivian McRae
Kristin Tate	Madison	Vanessa Fish
Tarsha Tubbs	Sawyer	Portia Shepherd & Sherrie Hiatt
Gloria Wood	Sylacauga	Maryanne and Fred Pate
Kasey Earnest	Tuscaloosa	Dave Bailey

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P.O. Box 38
Cropwell, AL 35054

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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 **Jeanette Clifton (406)** in the loss of her husband, Franklin Clifton

To **Tommy Lee (358)** in the loss of his father, Thomas Nathan Lee, Sr.

To **Bill Drake (33)** in the loss of his wife, **Kathleen Drake (30)**

To **Ann Livingston (120)** in the loss of her husband, **Gunter Livingston (229)**

To **Kitten Dailey (286)** in the loss of her husband, **Buddy Dailey (285)**