



Vol.23 No.2

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

April 2025

Community Humble Servants

Lay Director

Debra Baker

Spiritual Director

Ted Anderson

Asst. Lay Director

Ken Farr

Asst. Spiritual Director

David Socha

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

Called to Serve: The Heart of the Emmaus Community

By Debra Baker, Community Lay Director

In our last Grapevine, I wrote about the importance of sponsorship in ensuring that Emmaus continues to thrive. Today, I want to highlight another vital element: servants willing to give their time and talents to serve on a Walk to Emmaus team.

Emmaus Walks simply cannot happen without people who are willing to step forward and serve. The mission of the Alabama Emmaus Community is to foster spiritual renewal by inspiring, challenging, and equipping church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. This is accomplished through the Emmaus experience—but it takes willing hands and hearts to make that experience possible.

To serve on a Walk team, you must have completed a Walk to Emmaus, a Cursillo weekend, a Tres Dias weekend, or another three-day spiritual renewal event recognized by the National Emmaus Movement, The Upper Room in Nashville, Tennessee. If you've had this experience, you are already part of the Alabama Emmaus Community and eligible to serve!

The Power of a Servant's Heart

Each Walk requires the dedication of 100 or more servants, ensuring that every aspect of the weekend runs smoothly. Every role is crucial—from creating a list of Cluster meetings for pilgrims' packets to leading as the Walk Lay Director. Each job, big or small, contributes to the greater mission of guiding others into a deeper experience of Christ's love.

(Please See Baker Page 3.)



Be Your Own Boss!

By Ted Anderson, Community Spiritual Director

We have the opportunity to be our own boss in life. The way to be successful at being our own boss is to allow Jesus to be the SUPERVISOR. If we try to make decisions without His leadership, it will turn out a job that gets nothing accomplished. What we do get done will be very wrong. Without Him, we can do nothing. II Timothy 2:9 - "Whenever I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds: but the Word of God is not bound."

How tough it is to discipline our own lives. To get the day started correctly, we must start with DEVOTIONS. Spend quality time with God and search into the Word. In many other issues in our daily activity, we use devotion to do the task right. It's so important to put dedicated work into daily devotions to search the exact leadership of God. Wherever He leads will be the right path, so do not question God; just be obedient. We will truly fail if we do not devote our direction to God. Matthew 6:33 says to seek first the kingdom of God and watch things fall into place. Put your faith in the leadership of the SUPERVISOR; Matthew 21:21.

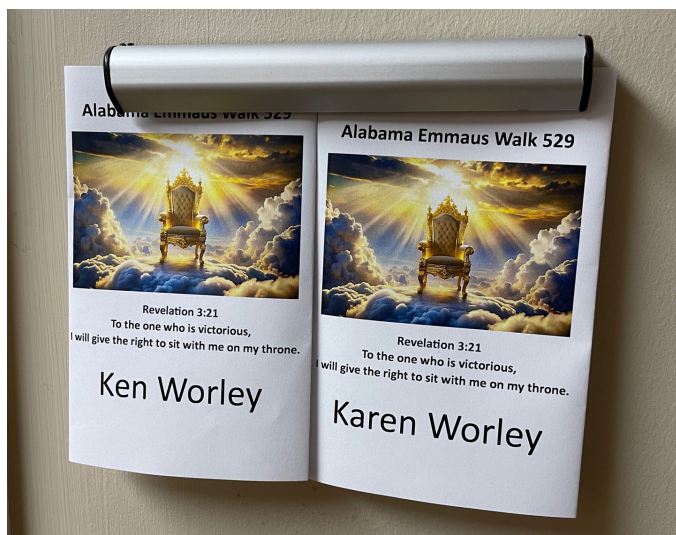


(Please See Anderson Page 2.)

Camp Updates

There are some really great updates going on at Camp! For one thing, the Refreshment Room has been repainted, and there is a strong possibility that the Conference Room and Pilgrim's Prayer Chapel will be also! Carpet in the Pilgrims' Prayer Chapel and the Speakers' Prayer Chapel has been replaced with carpet squares.

With these upgrades, there is a new procedure for hanging anything in the building. You may not ever use nails. For some things you may use tape, but it must be painter's tape. However, no tape may be used in the freshly painted Refreshment Room. Instead, plastic hooks from the ceiling tile frames and fishing line work well. And in the Retreat Center, no names will be attached to the hall doors, but to the door frames.



Anderson

(continued from Page 1)

God never doubts His leadership, and we should also discipline our doubts. Never doubt the all-knowing God. Some times we nurture negative thoughts and doubts. This will always bring about discouragement and failure. Do not allow doubts to linger too long. Always replace doubts with thoughts of faith. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

What are our desires of being our own boss? Too often the desires are selfish, sensual, and oft times sinful goals. Discipline our DESIRES! James 4:7-8 shows us first to submit to God; resist the devil so he will flee from us. Let others see us dedicated to pleasing God. There is nothing sweeter than walking hand in hand daily with God. I John 3:22.

Discipline our DUTIES. Why waste time that you can use to lead others to salvation, a closer walk with God and spiritual growth? Always make time for God's work. We have all learned that we need to be the hands and feet of the outreach in which Jesus leads us. As your own boss, put that on your list of things to be every day. Close with this: Romans 1:6 - "Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ." This is our job all the time, so be a good boss as you listen to the MASTER SUPERVISOR!!!



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
531	April 24-27	Sandra May	Sherrill Clontz	Huntsville	Tim Cotton Laura Bracey
532	May 15-18	Eric Barr	Sam Frazier	So. Shelby / B'ham East / B'ham South	Bill Rush Jack Bailey
533	Aug 7-10	Gloria McKee	Elliot Gordon	Franklin / Haleyville Marion	Ken Farr Carlin Burrow
534	Sept 11-14	Valrie Bain	David Gray	East Alabama / Cheaha	James Dodwell Stephanie Kirby Minix

*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)

The Walk Lay Director with the guidance of the Holy Spirit is responsible for building the team, prayerfully inviting people to fill key roles. Team members gather at meetings before the Walk to pray, plan, and prepare for the pilgrims' journey, working together to create an environment where God's grace is fully experienced.

But service extends far beyond Emmaus weekends. Serving comes in many forms.

In our community and church one might:

- Provide meals and clothing to those in need
- Visit the elderly and the sick
- Teach a Bible study or Sunday school class
- Tend to the church grounds
- Even small tasks, like cleaning out the refrigerator or changing lightbulbs, are acts of service that bless others and honor God.

Mission trips—whether across the world, in another state, or within your own community—also offer powerful ways to serve. And serving on weekends like Kairos, Chrystalis, and Emmaus deepens our relationship with God and strengthens our discipleship.

Are We Answering the Call?

Since COVID-19, many Lay Directors have struggled to build teams to the recommended size. A balanced team consists of:

- 1/3 new servants experiencing their first Walk team
- 1/3 who have served a few times
- 1/3 seasoned members with significant experience

Unfortunately, some of us have become complacent, assuming we are no longer needed. But the truth is, Emmaus needs you now more than ever. Perhaps it's time to step out of our comfort zones, change up the areas where we serve, and allow others the opportunity to serve where we once did and accept a position on an Emmaus team.

I urge you to begin praying now about how God is calling you to serve. The next time a Lay Director invites you onto a Walk team, I hope your answer will be a resounding "YES!" No matter what role you are asked to fill, know that you are serving Jesus by serving others—and that is our mission.

I leave you with this beautiful song by Bill and Gloria Gaither:

I Will Serve Thee

I will serve Thee because I love Thee;
You have given life to me.

I was nothing until You found me;
You have given life to me.

Heartaches, broken pieces, ruined lives
are why You died on Calv'ry.

Your touch was what I longed for;
You have given life to me.

Let's answer the call to serve—because our willingness to serve makes Emmaus possible.

Board Bits

The Alabama Emmaus Board is currently working hard to bring the Pilgrim application process into the 21st century! Plans are in place to soon have the application online, possibly on the Community website, where the information can be entered and sent to the Emmaus office. Also very soon, there will be a Venmo account to enable fees to be paid electronically. It will be important to keep checking the Grapevine and the Community website for updates!



In similar fashion, the board voted in its March meeting to include a document with the Group Reunion cards given to Pilgrims that has QR codes to enable new Pilgrims to locate groups that meet electronically. While in-person meetings are always the best, there are times when meeting physically may not be an option. This document suggests several options, including Zoom and Google Meet. Some Reunion Groups have been meeting electronically ever since COVID, but this enables virtually all members of the Community at large to avail themselves of it. This effort is the result of work done by the Strategic Planning Committee created by the AEC board last year to revitalize the Community.



Yet another idea promoted by the Strategic Planning Committee is the creation of Emmaus branded merchandise. These items may soon be available for purchase to be given as gifts, or to be sold with the t-shirts on the Book Table during Walks. Again, be watching for announcements regarding these developments.

2025 Walk Schedule

528	Feb 20-23	Women
529	Mar 6-9	Men
530	Mar 20-23	Women
531	Apr 24-27	Women
532	May 15-18	Men
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

Praying For You

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

Sympathy is extended to **Sharon Hickman (482)** and Rev. Josh Hickman (Cullman First) in the death of her husband and his father, Thomas Hickman.

Sympathy is also extended to **Dennis Murphy (289)** and **Beverly (#274)** in the death of his mother, Gertude Murphy.

Sympathy is extended to **DeeAnn Creel (107)** in the death of her aunt, **Betty Leeth Haynes (150)**

Sympathy is extended to **Milton Watts (46)** in the death of his wife, JoAnn(50).

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

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!

For the mid part of 2025, we still have availability for these Walks.

Walk 531 (W) April 24-27 – 13 applications

Walk 532 (M) May 15-18 – 13 applications

Walk 534 (W) Aug 7 –10 – 0 applications

Walk 535 (W) Sept 11-14 – 1 application

We all know it is a life-changing experience. Who might you want to afford that opportunity?

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!

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>

Alabama Emmaus Walk 531 April 24-27, 2025

Lay Director Sandra May – Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Leslie Comer
Andrea Jones – Priority
Leigh Martin – Fourth Day
Amy Boyle
Layne Salvador
Chrystal Whitehead

Spiritual Director Sherill Clontz – Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Brooke Hemphill – Justifying Grace
Hal Cain – Obstacles to Grace
June Wilson – Sanctifying Grace
Chris Whitehead – Prevenient Grace

Music Co-Chairs Ken Mason & Debbie Weaver

Assistant Table Leaders

Hillary Dunham – Christian Action
Diann Haas – Body of Christ
Gail Johnson – Priesthood
Leigh Helveston – Piety
Dawn Knox – Changing Our World
Lynne Starnes – Discipleship
Linda Mason – Grow Through Study

Table Leaders

Sarah Withrow-Findley
Teresa Schmitt
Renee Rowse
Louvina (Lulu) Gross
Susan Lewis
Linda Case
Amy Billings

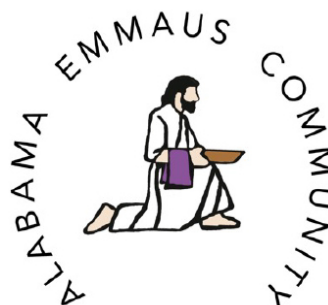
Board Reps Tim Cotton
Laura Bracey

Committees

Agape	Mona Vines	256-682-5641
Food Service	Bill Johnson	256-468-6488
Refreshments	Sarah Melendez	256-468-0889
	Frank Barger	256-585-7787
Prayer Vigil	Tara Dombrowsky	256-714-2466
Housing	Karen Cotton	256-651-9450
	Genie Riddle	256-656-5515
Candlelight	Jason Dunham	256-508-4819
Clean-up	Terry Lewis	256-755-1821
Closing	Joyce Smith	256-714-8689
Entertainment	Bryan Paparella	256-527-3446
Follow-up	Ralph & Sandra Jones	256-678-7268
Prayer Chapel	Chris Bragg	256-652-0843
	Stacey Hedden	256-509-6127
Sponsors' Hour	Debbie Youngs	256-651-4947
Worship	Rebecca Berman	256-684-3420
	Amy Key	256-684-6433
Photographer	Charlie Blass	256-508-8311
Humble Servant	John (JJ) May	703-307-3533

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Ruth Ivey	Alexander City	Cathy Parker
Haley Holcombe	Cullman	Tina Holcombe & Kay Parker Phillips
Etta Crow	Detroit	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook
Karolyn Johnson	Detroit	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook
Caroline Alford	Dothan	Virginia Jones
Emily Walter	Guin	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook
Rose Brown	Guntersville	Lynn Dufrene & Roslyn & Terrell England
Nicole Atkins	Hamilton	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook
Sharon Dickinson	Hamilton	Lana McNess
Connie George	Hamilton	Nicholas George & Roger Davis
Kay Frazier	Mountain Brook	Sandrea Brasher
Melanie Thomas	Oneonta	Shannon Jones & Ben & Deborah Keener
Brandy Frost	Tuscaloosa	Stephen Frost
Pattie Monroe	Tuscaloosa	Melinda Knight
Elizabeth Crosby	Wetumpka	Carol Kenyon
Cheryl Analla	Winfield	Nicholas George & Roger Davis



Alabama Emmaus Walk 532 May 15-18, 2025

Lay Director Eric Barr – Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Neil Branham
Randy Nelson – Priority
Gene Ingram – Fourth Day
Stephen Robinson
Brian Ledlow
Gene Thraikill

Spiritual Director Sam Frazier – Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Spencer Welch – Prevenient Grace
Terri Milstead – Justifying Grace
Hal Cain – Obstacles to Grace
Angela Martin – Sanctifying Grace

Music Chairperson Linn Lower

Assistant Table Leaders

Bruce Carpenter – Priesthood
TBD – Life of Piety
Mel Travis – Grow Through Study
John Fillebaum – Christian Action
Cliff Myers – Discipleship
Rodney O'Bryant – Changing Our World
David Townsend – Body of Christ

Table Leaders

Fred Falbo
Ryan Brewer
T. Ray Mauldin
Scott Mitchell
Bob Townley
Mike Harris
TBD

Board Reps

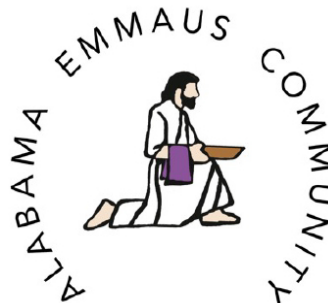
Bill Rush
Jack Bailey

Committees

Agape	Pam Branham	205-837-2708
Meal Service	Kelly Largin	205-410-4627
Refreshments	Kristy Ingram	205-706-1870
Prayer Vigil	Carol Rayfield	205-410-8732
Housing	Judy Vaughn	205-687-7005
Candlelight	Glena Trammel	205-441-3217
Clean-up	Steve Spitzer	205-281-1256
Closing	Joanne Bailey	205-908-2249
Entertainment	Lori Hebson	205-422-7350
Follow-up	Phyllis Riddle	205-213-5462
Prayer Chapel	Julia Rudd	205-936-2282
Sponsors' Hour	Vicky Parson	205-475-6854
Worship	Beckee Blackman	205-222-8203
Photographer	Stephen Milstead	205-229-5907
Humble Servant	Chairyll Barr	205-907-5304

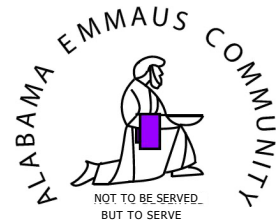
Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Justin Sibley	Bear Creek	Greg Sibley
Mike Bingham	Bessemer	Ron Babin & Alden Snow
Don Barnhill	Birmingham	David Cleveland & Randy Nelson
Paul Walls	Carrollton, GA	Anna Jones
Aaron West	Columbus, MS	Ryan Rickert & Hanna Gilliam
John Mills	Cullman	Mickey R. Phillips & Bob Burgess
Jeff Cox	Guntersville	Carl Ivey
Ron Holler	Guntersville	Jeff Deitsch & Richard Hayes
Larry Stevens	Hanceville	Bob Burgess & Mickey R. Phillips
Michael Harris	Helena	Kim & Steve Shadix
Tyler Graves	Huntsville	Ricky Sparks
Justin Hartley	Northport	Dan Robertson
Jeff Smith	Springville	Marshall & Brandy Tucker





Alabama Emmaus Community
Annual Overnight Training Event
Retreat Center - Camp Sumatanga
August 8-9, 2025
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 8 & 9, 2025. 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. (Note: the candlelight class is only taught in the first session).

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 533, 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 Alan Brown (256) 454-2526 or tb432711@gmail.com.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TODAY TO ALAN BROWN
AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW
Registration Deadline is July 31st, 2025

Name: _____

Cluster: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Cell) _____

Email: _____

TOTAL HOUSING	\$
TOTAL MEALS WITHOUT HOUSING	\$
PARTICIPATION FEE *PER PERSON*	\$ 5.00
TOTAL PAYABLE	
Please make checks payable to: ALABAMA EMMAUS COMMUNITY	\$

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM

TO: Alan Brown

406 Read Oak Drive

Oxford, AL 36203

(256) 454-2526

tb432711@gmail.com

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, August 8th

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 9th

8:00 Breakfast in Lodge Dining Room
 8:00 Registration, 2nd Floor McKinney-Atkins
 8:15 Announcements & Singing
 8:30 Devotion
 8:00 Break
 10:00 Class I
 10:45 Break
 11:00 Class II
 12:00 Lunch in Lodge Dining Room
 1:00 Butch Fennell, Community Lay Director
 1:15 Class III
 2:15 Closing

TENTATIVE CLASSES

Assistant Lay Directors
Table Leaders & Assistant Table Leaders
Music
Refreshments
Candlelight
Housing & Registration
Sponsor's Hour/ Closing / Follow-Up
Speaker's Prayer Chapel / 72 Hour Prayer Vigil
Agape
Meal Service
Worship
Tech Support

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.

ACCOMODATIONS	NO. OF NIGHTS	COST PER PERSON PER NIGHT	TOTAL COST
Retreat Center <i>(circle one)</i>			
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	

IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL, IT MUST BE DONE BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST 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 533. If you wish to serve a meal on Walk 533, 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.