



Vol.23 No.1

# The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

February 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

## Giving Our Best to the Master

*By Debra Baker, Community Lay Director*

Dear Emmaus Community,

Happy New Year! Can you believe it's 2025? And even more incredible—when we ring in 2026, we'll be stepping into the second quarter of the 21st century! Time moves so quickly, and while many of us may not see 2050, as long as the Lord grants me the opportunity to serve, I will continue to do His will.



It is with deep humility and gratitude that I step into the role of Community Lay Director for 2025. I did not accept this position lightly—it came after much prayer and discernment. I wanted to be sure this was the path my Master intended for me. My own Emmaus journey began with Walk 143, and through the Holy Spirit's guidance, I had the privilege of leading Walk 451. Like so many of you, my Emmaus experience transformed my life, and I know it continues to impact lives across our community.

### A Spirit-Filled Beginning

Words cannot fully capture the sacredness of the Commissioning Service for the Alabama Emmaus Community Board at our January Overnight Board Meeting. Led by Community Spiritual Director Ted Anderson and Assistant Community Spiritual Director David Socha, the service was a powerful moment of surrender and anointing. As we waited to receive communion, I could feel the Holy Spirit's presence.

**(Please See Baker Page 3.)**

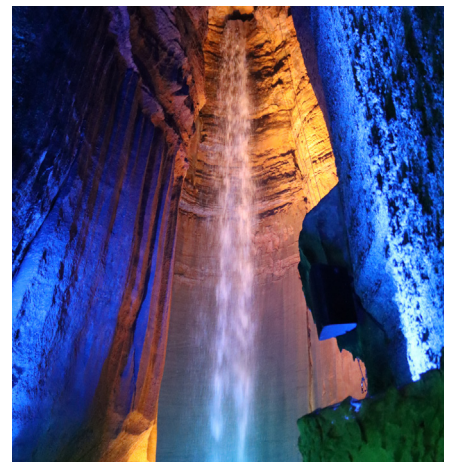
## God Always Makes a Way For Us to Get Out of Trouble

*By Ted Anderson, Community Spiritual Director*

**Exodus 14:15 And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward."**

As our new year of Emmaus walks gets underway, trials come up when trying to compile a team or secure enough pilgrims. Sometimes it looks questionable, but God always has a way for us get back on track. When it seems like all the walls are going to crash, remember we serve a Master carpenter. When we turn to the one who can take care of the problems, He will provide a divine escape route. Not to escape from the work, but to escape from all the problems.

Our FAITH in God is His way out of doubt. Never doubt the ability of God, because with Him all things are possible, and He will provide. We all know the story of the little train that believed he could and was able to get it done. God shows us we can in everything that comes before us. When we think it is not going to work,



**(Please See Anderson Page 2.)**

## Board Bits

In its January meeting, the Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors enacted a change to the Standing Rules. It adjusts the number of Pilgrims required for a Walk to go forward and provides a timeframe for alerting the board to any issues with the number of Pilgrims available for a Walk.

20. The minimum number of Pilgrims and tables required for a Walk to go forward is 14 Pilgrims and five (5) to seven (7) tables. The goal is to schedule 28 Pilgrims in order to have 25. Reducing the number of tables will be done at the discretion of the walk lay director, spiritual director, and board representatives. The original structure for talks and table assignments – seven Table Leaders and seven Assistant Table Leaders giving seven talks – will remain the same regardless of the number of tables approved and any resulting seating changes. One month prior to the walk date, the Community Coordinator will alert all board members if the minimum number of pilgrims has not been reached.



Join us on  
**Facebook**

Join the Alabama Emmaus Community Facebook group for online information about Emmaus events. Search for Alabama Emmaus Community.

## Anderson

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remember again: with Him nothing is impossible. I do not believe “Why try?” is a viable answer to any question.

When despair jumps out at us, there is HOPE in God’s leadership as He shows us the way. How brightly the light of God shines in the darkest hours. In my college years, I lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee. When people came to see me, they always wanted to go to Ruby Falls. I went enough that I could have been a guide. What stuck with me the most was how dark it was when the lights were all turned off at the falls. Then they lit a simple tiny light. As dark as it was in there, the light pierced the total darkness. It is never too dark for God to shine on us.

Ever find yourself in a bind and not sure how to get out? As a daring young man, I enjoyed exploring caves. One day while doing this I was attempting to cross a raven filled with jagged rocks below me. With a rope tied around my waist, I fell but the rope caught me just before I hit the rocks. The guys with me hollered and asked me if I was alright. Being a child of the 60’s, the title of a song of that day came to my mind and I answered in song, “I JUST DROPPED IN TO SEE WHAT CONDITION MY CONDITION WAS IN!” Funny then, but not now. Today we must turn to the cross, because it always points to God.

Sometimes it seems as if all the avenues for a walk are blocked, but Jesus is the way. Follow Him.

Faith brings easiness to the planning of a walk, as well as our paths of life. Hope makes the day so much brighter knowing God can and will get it all together. When asked to serve on a team be thankful that door was opened for you. Right now, I bet you can think of several people that you could sponsor. Get up and get busy to advance the Glorious Plans of God.

De Colores!

## Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
529	Mar 6-9	Todd Gibson	Lynn Gibson	West Alabama / Tuscaloosa	Mary Lynn Whitten Melissa Barnes
530	Mar 20-23	Jacque Clay	Sherry Reynolds	Gadsden / Marshall	Lane Berry Lisa Socha
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

### \*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

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Your Board members are ready and eager to serve—whether facilitating at your Cluster meetings or supporting Walks. If you have questions, concerns, or need guidance, please reach out to them. They are here for you.

For those interested in the By-laws and Standing Rules, you can request a copy from your Cluster Lay Director or Board Representative. They will be happy to provide one.

## Important Update on Walk Requirements

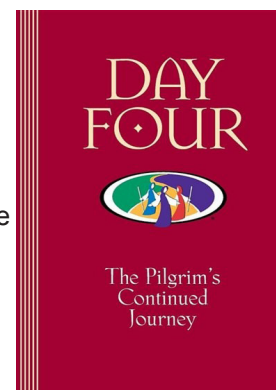
During our first Board Meeting of 2025, we discussed an important topic: the minimum number of pilgrims required for a Walk to proceed. After thoughtful discussion, the Board unanimously voted to amend Standing Rule 20. You can read the new text in the Board Bits section.

What this means is that we need pilgrims! I have complete faith that the Holy Spirit will guide the right people to attend an upcoming Walk—but we must be intentional in listening, inviting, and sponsoring.

## The Key to a Thriving Emmaus Community: Good Sponsorship

Good sponsorship is the foundation of a successful Emmaus Walk. Without pilgrims, our Walks cannot happen. In the coming months, we plan to provide training for each Cluster on best practices for sponsorship. Until then, I encourage you to pick up a copy of Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey from the book table at Candlelight or Closing. The chapter "The Next Generation: Being a Good Sponsor" offers valuable insight on how to prayerfully and effectively sponsor someone. (My copy is a 1997 edition, but the wisdom remains the same!) This book also makes a meaningful agape gift for pilgrims as they embark on their Fourth Day.

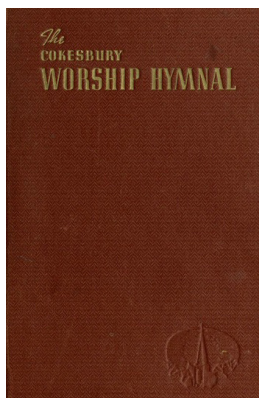
If the Holy Spirit places a name on your heart, take action. Submit an application to the Emmaus Office and remember that scholarships are available. Do not let financial concerns be a barrier to someone experiencing the life-changing gift of Emmaus.



## Are You Giving Your Best to the Master?

In closing, I am reminded of a song from The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal that my church used to sing:

"Give of Your Best to the Master" – Howard Grose and Charlotte Barnard (p. 187)



*Verse 1:*

Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth;

Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor into the battle for truth.

Jesus has set the example; Dauntless was He, young and brave;

Give Him your loyal devotion, Give Him the best that you have.

*Chorus:*

Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth;

Clad in salvation's full armor, Join in the battle for truth.

This song challenges me to ask myself: Am I truly giving my best to the Master? Now, I ask you the same—Are you giving your best to Him?

I look forward to seeing you at Candlelight and many Closing services this year. Let's step into 2025 with a renewed commitment to serving Him and sharing the blessing of Emmaus with others.

De Colores,  
Debra Baker  
Community Lay Director, 2025



## 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>

## 2025 Walk Schedule

528	Feb 20-23	Women
<b>529</b>	<b>Mar 6-9</b>	<b>Men</b>
530	Mar 20-23	Women
531	Apr 24-27	Women
<b>532</b>	<b>May 15-18</b>	<b>Men</b>
533	Aug 7-10	Women
534	Sept 11-14	Women
535	Sept 25-28	Women
<b>536</b>	<b>Oct 16-19</b>	<b>Men</b>
537	Nov 6-9	Women

### *The Grapevine*

Alabama Emmaus Office, PO Box 2531  
Gadsden AL 35903  
256-441-6140

Web: [www.AlaEmmaus.org](http://www.AlaEmmaus.org)  
email: [Office@AlaEmmaus.org](mailto:Office@AlaEmmaus.org)

Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 849 County Road 3926, Arley, AL 35541, or emailed to [DHall92727@aol.com](mailto: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!

In this early part of 2025, we still have availability for these first Walks.

Walk 528 (W) February 20-23 – 21 applications

Walk 529 (M) March 6-9 – 21 applications

Walk 530 (W) March 20-23 – 12 applications

Walk 531 (W) April 24-27 – 9 applications

Walk 532 (M) May 15-18 – 2 applications

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!

## Praying For You

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

**Nancy Oiler Davis (CAE #39)** in the death of her husband, **Rickie Davis (CAE #185)**.

The family of **Alan Brown (22)**, **Rev. Vicki Brown Cater (27)**, **Melanie Brown Self (66)**, and **Lisa Brown Edmondson** in the death of **Mariylyn Brown (17&LD77)**, Alan's wife and their mother.

## Alabama Emmaus Walk 529 March 6-9, 2025

**Lay Director** Todd Gibson - Perseverance

### Assistant Lay Directors

Mark Scoggin  
Stephen Frost - Priorities  
Ken Baines - Fourth Day  
Danny Lemley  
Steve Meyer  
Mark Wheat

**Spiritual Director** Lynn Gibson - Means of Grace

### Assistant Spiritual Directors

Heath Allred - Prevenient Grace  
Mitch Nethery - Justifying Grace  
Preston Headrick - Obstacles to Grace  
Paul Wilson - Sanctifying Grace

**Music Chairperson** Chris Barnes

### Assistant Table Leaders

Michael Wisdom - Priesthood  
Richard Cantrell - Piety  
Rob Stringfellow - Study  
Matt Hammond - Christian Action  
Ryan Phillips - Discipleship  
Jaron Andrews - Changing Our World  
Joel McLaughlin - Body of Christ

### Table Leaders

Dale McNees  
Bob Thomas  
Reginald Eppes  
Doug Kuhn  
Dennis Gregory  
Ryan Rickert  
Tony Humphries

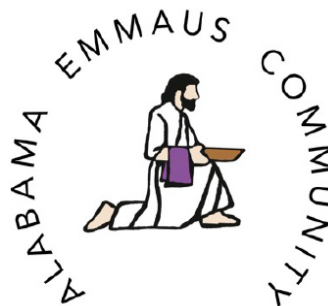
**Board Reps** Mary Lynn Whitten  
Melissa Barnes

### Committees

Agape	Angie Baines	(205) 399-6564
Meal Service	Norma Lemley	(205) 344-1012
Refreshments	Mary Wilson	(205) 242-6121
Prayer Vigil	Cathy McNees	(662) 574-5481
Housing	Sherry Lockhart	(205) 242-6048
Candlelight	Ken Worley	(205) 454-1477
Clean-up	Bobby Jones	(205) 799-3948
Closing	Joy Jones	(205) 799-3972
Entertainment	Angie Baines	(205) 399-6564
Follow-up	Judy Trull	(205) 712-9191
Prayer Chapel	Danielle Eppes	(205) 499-0717
Sponsors' Hour	Juanita Meyer	(662) 497-2636
Worship	Jacque Allred	(205) 275-2534
Photographer	Carol Frazier	(662) 889-3526
Humble Servant	Mike Whitten	(662) 574-2549

## Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Mike Whitten	Albertville	J.D. Ryan & Shirley Ryan
Terry Johnson	Anniston	Ted Anderson & Judy Hay Anderson
David McPherson	Buhl	Clyde Leavelle & Russell Suchomelly
Michael Martinez	Chelsea	Tammy Martinez & Woni Nelson
Buddy Hammett	Cropwell	Richard Herbster & Paul Webb
Brandy Crow	Detroit	Jeremy Prestage & Rob Crook
Bradly Martin	Guntersville	Ricky Sparks
David Cochran	Hamilton	Sheila Cochran
Greg Hammitte	Hamilton	Shane Stidham & Kimbo Stidham
Steve McLeod	Hamilton	Mark Dearen & Debbie Dearen
Tyler Norton	Hamilton	Lisa Halcomb & Jeff Halcomb
Bernard Richards	Hamilton	Linda Rich
Don Lazarre	Helena	Gene Ingram & Bob Townley
Tyler Graves	Huntsville	Ricky Sparks
Doug Sutherland	Madison	Chuck Jones
Randy Dotson	Moody	Jeanie Dotson & Juia Bianchi
George Sokol	Moody	Julia Bianchi & Jeanie Dotson
Jamie Hawthorne	Northport	Dan Robertson
Wes Lewis	Northport	Dan Robertson & Ken Hanby, Jr.
Billy Stacy	Northport	Elbert Patterson & Terri Stacy
Charlie Gordon	Russellville	Elliott Gordon & Ponda Gordon
Jason Hartsell	Russellville	Pat Seal & Teresa Seal
Lee Bailey	Sylacauga	Mary Nelson & Aaron Murchison
Greg Trisch	Talladega	Todd Henderson & RoxAnne Henderson
Jim Perrin	Tuscaloosa	Ken Worley & Karen Worley
Jerry King	Tuscumbia	Rocky Stone & Phillip Hamilton



## Alabama Emmaus Walk 530 March 20-23, 2025

**Lay Director** Jacque Clay (Perseverance)

### Assistant Lay Directors

Trish Harnen  
Melissa Lett (Priority)  
Sharla Parris  
Linda Kirby (Fourth day)  
Jeanne Mabeus  
Teresa Wilson

**Spiritual Director** Sherri Reynolds (Means of Grace)

### Assistant Spiritual Directors

Cam Price (Prevenient Grace)  
Joey Smith (Justifying Grace)  
Diane Housler (Obstacles to Grace)  
Paula Calhoun (Sanctifying Grace)

**Music Chairperson** Rhonda DeHaven

### Assistant Table Leaders

Tammy Hayes (Body of Christ)  
Christa Neyman (Discipleship)  
Lorie Hannefield (Christian Action)  
Cindy Cash (Priesthood of All Believers)  
Lisa Saylor (Grow Through Study)  
Susan Tanner (Life of Piety)  
Kristy McDaniel (Changing Our World)

### Table Leaders

Renee Bellew  
Alison Bowling  
Misty Brogdon  
Nancy Brown  
Shalynn Kilpatrick  
Gloria Hayes  
Marilyn Moore

**Board Reps** Lane Berry  
Lisa Socha

### Committees

Agape	Charlie Baker	256-558-1414
Food Service	Bob DeHaven	205-835-0686
Refreshments	Leslie Colegrove	256-390-8318
Prayer Vigil		
Housing	Kelly Saylor	256-509-5285
Candlelight	Donald Douthit	256-504-9040
Clean-up	Randall Pankey	256-572-3722
Closing	Rick Hannefield	918-851-3210
Entertainment		
Follow-up	Nancy Beason	256-878-2044
Prayer Chapel	David Socha	256-572-4669
Sponsors' Hour	Sherry Lusk	256-302-9037
Worship	Teresa Walker	205-863-0888
Photographer		
Humble Servant	Will Clay	256-393-1705

## Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Donna Tidmore	Arab	Joanie Reynolds
Priscilla Taggart	Athens	Donna McDaniel & Jack McDaniel
Teresa Martin	Childersburg	Desiree Smith
Gretta Burgett	Hamilton	Sheila Riley
Donna Bagwell	Hoover	Suzanne Scott Trammell & Melissa Marsh
Christan Bowen	Horton	Sharron Isdell & Crystal Kindred
Tomyah Smith	Macon, MS	Pam Lacy
Kay Covell	Pelham	Tracey Evanko
Alicia Jones	Pelham	Kasey Evanko
Destiny Owan	Ridgeland, MS	Pam Lacy
Krystal McWhorter	Southside	Mike Osborne
Erica Tucker Lang	Southside	Mike Osborne
Charli Matthews	Tuscaloosa	Brian Winters & Karen Worley
Sam (Samantha) Hartsell	Russellville	Teresa Seal & Pat Seal
Dominique Kreger	Scottsboro	Leigh Martin & Tara Dombrowsky
Andrea Herbster	Talladega	RoxAnne Henderson & Todd Henderson

