



Vol.23 No.3

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

July 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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

By Debra Baker, Community Lay Director

At the last board meeting I asked the board members why they thought we have Cluster/Follow-up Meetings. I got various responses that included: fellowship, to build relationships, to build excitement for upcoming walks, to welcome new members, to help get members connected, and a sign of accountability. These are all good reasons. I then asked them to share with the other board members what they were doing to increase attendance since Covid. We discussed and asked questions. I think everyone has a meal. Worship is about the same with music (I hope that if you play a musical instrument that you bring it to all meetings), allowing new pilgrims to share about their walk, devotion given by spiritual or lay person, and communion. Some have business at the meetings. Others have board meetings a week before their set meeting and type up the business to pass out at the Cluster meeting. Some email the Cluster business to the members or have a Cluster newsletter. Not having a business time during the meeting allows more time for the reason we should be there, to worship and bind together as one.

Some Clusters rotate to a different church each month. They said while it helped to get members from that church each month, regular members didn't

(Please See Baker Page 3.)



**Bind Us
Together
With Love**

'Tis the Season!

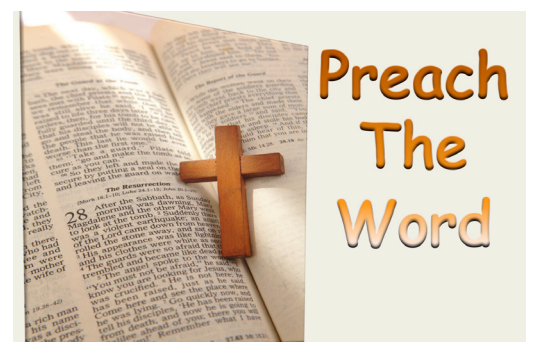
By Ted Anderson, Community Spiritual Director

No, this is not a Christmas story. This is an instructional plan from the Word of God. Right now, there are no Emmaus walks taking place in the Alabama Emmaus Community, but that does not mean that we should not be mindful and thinking and planning for what lies ahead. Scripture says to, "Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." II Timothy 4:2.

Should we be busy with the work of the Alabama Emmaus Community plans? Yes!! Praying always helps us get started and adds power to the things we are doing. As we pray, ask God to place future Pilgrims on your heart and contact them. Seek God's leadership and ask Him to direct you to work with the new Lay Directors as they seek team members. Your walk would not have happened if former Pilgrims had not committed to serve. Now we all must be ready and willing to do the same.

The last year has been an eye-opening experience for me as I have served as the Community Spiritual Director. Sure, it seems things are so simple when a walk is going on, but behind the scenes, months before, the work has been furious

(Please See Anderson Page 3.)



**Preach
The
Word**

Annual Training Event News

There is an update to the Training Event information!!!

A Sponsorship class is now going to be offered! At the May meeting, a new Sponsorship Permanent Committee was created and the two people who have just been named to serve on this committee will be teaching this class. Bill Rush and Angel Rait will be the instructors, and they also happen to serve on the Community's Strategic Planning Committee.

So if you attend this class, you'll hear all about the plans and potential new products in the works to enhance sponsorship. If you have not yet planned to attend, you might want to rethink that.

The event begins Friday night, Aug. 8 with the Memorial Service, and the classes are held on Saturday, Aug. 9. You can find the registration form and all related information included on the last pages of this issue.



**Join us on
Facebook**

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

Board Bits

The Alabama Emmaus Community Board held an overnight meeting May 30-31. One of the reports presented involved the progress being made with converting the payment of Pilgrim fees to a digital format. The Community Treasurer and Community Coordinator have worked through models that could soon make it possible to handle these payments through Venmo. So far only models have been created, and only Pilgrim fees are the focus at this time. But the possibility of this becoming an actuality is very real. This will mean that all of us as sponsors will need to keep up with the changes when they are actually put in place. Be sure to check here for announcements regarding them.



The Strategic Planning Committee that the board created last year has focused in recent months on what they call BAM – Branding/Advertising/Marketing. The intent is to create awareness of Alabama Emmaus through rebranding and bringing the concept into the current time. There is an emphasis on a fresh approach through advertising Emmaus with videos utilizing several forms of media. More products with the Community logo will also be made available. The board viewed a presentation that included several graphics for shirts, from sweats to tees, and for use with material such as Lay Director binders and any other material used by the Community.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
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
535	Sept 25-28	Julie Martin	Larry Hogan	Athens / Moulton / Shoals	Jimmy Grisham Pete Peeden
536	Oct 16-19	Neil Branham	Tony Jones	Blount / Cullman	Sally Cofield Mickey Phillips

*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)

attend as often because of the longer drive. Some have two designated churches that they do a rotation. Some meet at one church that is close to a central location for everyone every month. Most start at 6:30. A few at 6:00. Everyone agreed that Cluster meetings should not last past about 8:00 to allow those with children to get home and get them ready for bed.

The whole point is to come up with a plan that will draw members for a better attendance. Cluster meetings are where you get to know people that are interested in keeping their Fourth Days alive and making vital connections. These connections help build future teams for walks. Servers are needed. Training servers is important. We need those that have served on a committee many times to train and prepare others.

At the same meeting we had just selected the next 10 Walk Lay Directors for Walks 543-552 to start in August 2026 - May 2027. Each one has been called. Most have already accepted. After the Lay Directors have their training and get their materials, they will begin watching and listening for the Holy Spirit to lead them to the person that is needed. I know some of you that have never served are waiting to be called. Try to come to the Training Event held at Camp Sumatanga on August 9. The upcoming Lay Directors get the names of those that attend. Maybe the Holy Spirit will tell them that you are ready to serve. There is a Memorial Service for those members that have passed held on Friday night, August 8. All are welcome to attend. The application is attached to this Grapevine. A class on sponsorship has been added to the line-up.

At the end of Closing on nearly every walk everyone forms a big circle around the auditorium and sings the song, "Bind Us Together". I want to leave you with another song I remember singing to end MYF/UMYF meetings each week titled "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fear, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.*

*When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.*

*Text by John Fawcett Music Johann G. Naegeli;
arranged by Lowell Mason
Celebration Hymnal p. 426

De Colores!

Debra Baker

Community Lay Director, 2025

Anderson

(continued from Page 1)

to just get ready. Can you accomplish all of that in just a short time? No, you must be in season all the time and praying always. It is promised that God is going to do His part, and He leads us to do our part with His guidance. My walk with my Lord has been strengthened as my journey of 2024-2025 on the board opened my eyes, but also my heart, to the blessing of watching team members grow, as well as seeing the change that takes place in the lives of Pilgrims.

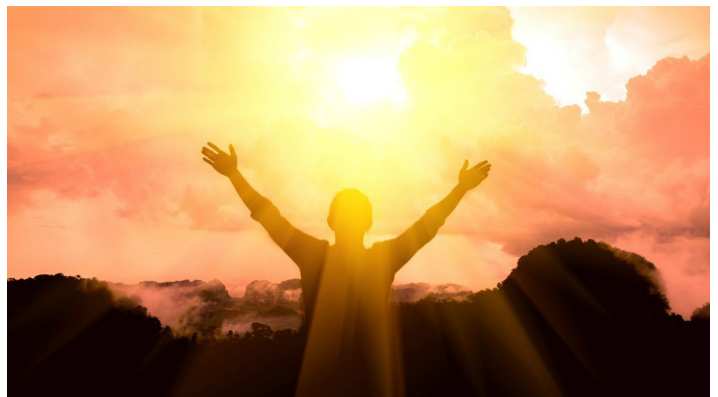
In just a few weeks, Bro. David Socha will be the Community Spiritual Director. If you have not already been praying for him, you are starting off behind, and you and I must catch up and lift him up daily. As in any journey in life, we will fight many battles because Satan does not want the work and will of God to be carried out. We must fight our battles by God's leadership, just as David did with Goliath. I close my last article for the newsletter with these words:

"THE BATTLE'S NOT YOURS IT'S THE LORD'S. WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP OR GIVING IN, REMEMBER THAT YOUR STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD. WHENEVER YOU'RE DOWN AND OUT, REMEMBER YOUR STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD. WHEN YOU FEEL WEAK AND OVERWHELMED, REMEMBER YOUR STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD. DON'T YOU DARE GIVE UP; GOD HAS AMAZING THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU. DURING THE BATTLES, THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU. DURING THE TRIALS, THE LORD WILL STRENGTHEN YOU. DURING THE TEST, THE LORD WILL ENCOURAGE YOU. YOU SHALL BE A CONQUEROR; YOU ARE A PART OF A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD. YOU ARE THE HEAD, NOT THE TAIL. YOU SHALL PREVAIL IN THIS LIFE. YOU WILL DEFEAT THE ENEMY, AND YOU WILL INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. DON'T GIVE UP, GIVE IT TO GOD!"

'Tis the season to be busy about the Lord's work. To God be the glory, great things He is going to do.

De Colores!

Bro. Ted Anderson



2025-2026 Walk Schedule

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
538	Feb 19-22	Women
539	Mar 5-8	Men
540	Mar 19-22	Women
541	Apr 23-26	Women
542	May 14-17	Men

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 **Babs Holcomb (243)**, **Cindy Kennamer (390)**, and **Eddie Kennamer (316)** in the death of her husband, Cindy's father and Eddie's father-in-law, **Jim Holcomb (241)**.

Sympathy is extended to **Pam Mixon (106)** in the death of her husband, **Barry Mixon (82)**.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Terry Vintson (85)**.

Sympathy is extended to **Kelly Kelley (408)**, and family in the death of her husband, **Chuck Kelley (337)**.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Ruth Mary Norris (482)**. Sympathy is extended to **Lamar Hiatt (105)** and family in the death of his wife, **Gail Hiatt (91)**.

Sympathy is extended to Vicki Mann and family in the death of her husband, **Phillip Mann (413)**.

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!**

Through the end of 2025, we still have availability for these Walks.

Walk 533 (W) – Aug. 7-10	8 applications
Walk 534 (W) – Sept. 11-14	4 applications
Walk 535 (W) – Sept. 25-28	5 applications
Walk 536 (M) – Oct. 16-19	14 applications
Walk 537 (W) – Nov. 6-9	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!

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 533
August 7-10, 2025**

Lay Director Gloria McKee – Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Joan Cleveland – Fourth Day
Jackie Mize
Ponda Gordon - Priority
Joanne Cox
Renate Lyle
Kim Robertson

Spiritual Director Elliott Gordon – Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Jeff Fleming – Prevenient Grace
Preston Headrick – Sanctifying Grace
Toby Chastain – Justifying Grace
Shan Odom – Obstacles to Grace

Music Chair Pat Seal

Assistant Table Leaders

Lisa Halcomb - Piety
Michelle Murray - Discipleship
Stephanie West – Growth through Study
Amber Steward – Christian Action
Rebecca Danley – Priesthood
Sarah Emerson – Changing our World
Susan Godsey – Body of Christ

Table Leaders

Ginger Gaddis
Laurie Bolt
Jennifer Swinney
Peggy Vick
Dianna Cantrell
Gina Frazier
Vickie Johnson

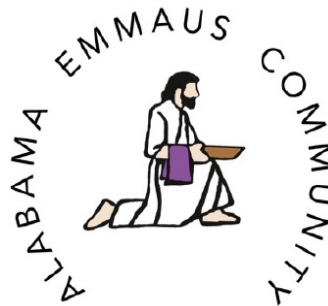
Board Reps Ken Farr
Carlin Burrow

Committees

Agape	Ricky Hall	256-810-8988
Meal Service	Tony Mize	205-486-2787
Refreshments	Nancy Bowling	256-877-0863
Prayer Vigil	Karla Huffman	256-668-0453
Housing	Sally Moore	256-668-0666
Candlelight	Mark Dearen	205-486-7607
Clean-up	Ronnie Hellums	256-668-0440
Closing	Sue Hellums	256-668-2257
Entertainment	Shelia Jones	215-412-5823
Follow-up	Jan Page	256-668-0075
Prayer Chapel	Deanna Shotts	205-412-2771
Sponsors' Hour	Dennis Upchurch	256-810-2932
Worship	Carrie Black	205-468-1370
Photographer	Joan Cleveland	256-810-0639
Humble Servant	Jeff Bowling	256-810-8970

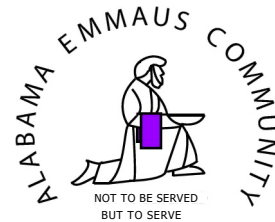
Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Misty Disharoon	Albertville	Barbara Harris
Sally Hoover	Birmingham	Donna Kinstley & Anthony Kinstley
Theresa Dumpson	Fayette	Deborah Mcclean & Mary Ham Wilson
Christi Cannon	Guntersville	Barbara Harris & Tiffany Thomson
Courtney Martin	Guntersville	Bradly Martin & Ricky Sparks
Lacy Melvin	Remlap	LeeAnn O'Toole & Crystal Payne
Haley Tant	Tuscaloosa	Sherri Trick
Chrissy Hill	Winfield	Deborah Mcclean & Mary Ham Wilson





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
5026 Red 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 Debra Baker, 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
Sponsorship

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.