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The
"WHERE YOU
HAVE FUN AND
GET A
BLESSING!"

APOSTLE

THE SHOALS CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 27 Number 1
JANUARY 2025

As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. — Luke 24:15-16 NIV

NEXT CLUSTER MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
6:00 P.M.
NORTH WOOD FUMC
1129 WILLS AVENUE
FLORENCE, ALABAMA

BRING:
COVERED DISH
Worship Guide
Name Badge
GOOD JOKES
Joyful Noise Voice
An Emmaus Friend
-AND YOU!!!
(NURSERY PROVIDED)

Cluster Leadership Training

Each year in January, The Alabama Emmaus Community offers training for new Cluster Leaders, and this year is no exception. The date for 2025 is January 25th. That makes it easy to remember, doesn't it? The event will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Camp Sumatanga in the Conference Room of Retreat Center 4.



While purpose of this event is to help Cluster Leaders get off on the right foot in a new year, it is open to any Cluster members who want to attend. There are always lots of good ideas shared by those attending. This can help anyone interested in helping their Cluster grow.

So no matter who you are, on the Cluster board or not, why not make plans now to attend this session. Bring some good ideas back with you!

Creating Camp Connections 2024 Campaign Update

A total of \$126,400 of was raised during the 2024 Creating Camp Connections Campaign at Sumatanga, which ended December 15th. This year's goal was to raise \$150,000 to support current and future projects.

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Upcoming Walks

WALK #528 IS FEBRUARY 20-23—Walk #528 will be led by the Holy Spirit and Kay Parker-Phillips. Dudley Brock is the Spiritual Director, and the team is from the Cullman/Blount Cluster Grouping. There are now 15 ladies assigned to #528, and still not one of them is from the Shoals. New Pilgrims are the source of growth for a Cluster! The deadline for getting your Pilgrim's application turned in for this Walk is February 10.



MARCH 6-9 IS THE DATE FOR #529—Todd Gibson and the Holy Spirit will be leading #529, and his dad, Lynn Gibson will be the Spiritual Director. The West Alabama/Tuscaloosa Cluster Grouping will field the team for this Walk. As we go to press, there are now 13 men assigned to this Walk. There are still no Shoals area men on the list yet, but there is plenty of room for your Pilgrim! Get in touch with that guy you've been thinking about and

get his application in. You have until February 24!

#530 TO BE MARCH 20-23—Walk #530 will be led by the Holy Spirit and Jacque Clay. Her Spiritual Director is to be Sherry Reynolds, and the team will come from the Gadsden/Marshall County Cluster Grouping. There are now 3 ladies assigned to #530, and again, there are none from the Shoals area. With a good two months between now and then, you have plenty of time to do all the duties of a sponsor – like a champ! Let's do this!!!

2025 ALABAMA WALKS

- #528 February 20-23 Women
- #529 March 6-9 Men
- #530 March 20-23 Women
- #531 April 24-27 Women
- #532 May 15-18 Men
- #533 August 7-10 Women
- #534 September 11-14 Women
- #535 September 25-28 Women

2025 CLUSTER BOARD

CLUSTER LEADER

Stephanie Hipps

ASST CLUSTER LEADER

Allison Brooks

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Bart Bowlin

ASST SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Bradley Hipps

CLUSTER COORDINATOR

Jonathan Killen

SECRETARY

Janice Alcorn

ASST SECRETARY

Patricia Jester

TREASURER

Anita Whitaker

ASST TREASURER

Mitch Dobbins

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Don Kirk

ASST COMMUNICATIONS COOR

Pam Roden Jones

REUNION GROUP COORDINATOR

Donnie Armstrong

MUSIC

Patsy Killen

DATABASE

Revonda Tweseme

AGAPE

Brenda Quesenberry

ASST AGAPE

Jean Peeden

SPONSORSHIP

Pete Peeden

CLEOPAS CONNECTION

Roy & Celia Rudolph

ASST CLEOPAS CONNECTION

Mike Creecy & Patsy Killen

72-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Mitch Dobbins

INFORMATION TABLE

Glenda Sue Peeden

WEB SERVANT

Jimmy McCollum

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jimmy McCollum

PAST CLUSTER DIRECTOR

Stephanie Hipps

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan—North Wood UMC

Feb—Tuscumbia First Methodist

Mar—North Wood UMC

Apr—Tuscumbia First Methodist

May—North Wood UMC

Jun—Tuscumbia First Methodist

Jul—North Wood UMC

The Apostle

Shoals Emmaus Cluster

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2024 Campaign Update

Below is a list of those projects:

Cabin Renovations - Cabin renovations are underway to revitalize Pool Camp, with the capacity to accommodate 28 campers per cabin. The new bathrooms will be ADA-compliant, enhancing the camp experience for those who need accessible facilities. Estimated Cost: \$75,000 per cabin.

McKinney-Atkins Dining Hall Renovations - The McKinney-Atkins Dining Hall is the place where everyone gathers for celebrations and special meals. The doors that welcome everyone into this space are in desperate need of replacing. Estimated Cost: \$4,000

Pool Repairs - Our gummite pool is showing years of use and love from our campers and is in need of repair. After all, what is camp without a swimming pool!?! Estimated Cost: \$25,000

Pool Improvements for ADA Compliance - Our special needs camps are designed to welcome individuals of all abilities. To better support campers who use mobility aids, we aim to purchase a hydraulic lift. Estimated Cost: \$10,000



Worn Doors Leading into McKinney-Atkins Dining



Bunk Beds at Newly Refurbished Cabins at



Build-out of the ADA compliant restrooms at

Reunion Groups

First Band of Brothers
Hearts Desire
Prayer Breakfast
Thursday's Lunch Bunch

First Light
His Girls Friday
Sons of the Light
Women of the World

Girls Rejoicing in the Spirit
Old Friends, New Friends
The Son Risers

For day/time and place click [Reunion Groups \(shoalscluster.com\)](http://www.shoalscluster.com)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Shoals Cluster Leader STEPHANIE HIPPS – (256) 483-6002 Cluster Spiritual Director BART BOWLIN (256) 762-2011 Community Coordinator Lane Berry
Office@alaemmaus.org P.O. Box 2531 – Gadsden, AL 35903 (256) 441-6140 Community Treasurer Kathy Mitchell – (256)-794-5196 Camp Sumatanga – (256) 538-9860 (Prompt #5)