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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
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Pam Roden Jones
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Brenda Quesenberry
ASST AGAPE
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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

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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 | First Light | Girls Rejoicing in the Spirit |
| Hearts Desire | His Girls Friday | Old Friends, New Friends |
| Prayer Breakfast | Sons of the Light | The Son Risers |
| Thursday's Lunch Bunch | Women of the World | |

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