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

# APOSTLE

THE SHOALS CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 26 Number 8  
AUGUST 2024

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, AUGUST 20, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
**TUSCUMBIA FIRST**  
104 THIRD STREET  
TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA

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

Annual Open Emmaus Cluster Meeting  
Tuscumbia First Methodist  
Tuesday, August 20, 2024  
6:00 PM

The Open Cluster Meeting is chance to invite someone to our Cluster meeting that you would like to sponsor for an Emmaus Walk. Invited guests will learn what to expect on the Walk as well as its history. Also, any questions they may have will be answered.

Childcare is provided and remember to leave your crosses at home. Also, bring an extra dish for the meal so there will be plenty.

## Community Updates

The Annual Training Event was held at Camp Sumatanga August 9-10. Community Lay Director Butch Fennell reported that Walk #523, a Men's Walk, in progress that weekend had 16 Pilgrims in attendance. He noted that the two women's Walks in September and October had more than 20 assigned and were in good shape. However, Walk #527 in November has only three Pilgrims at this point.

There has been a 40% decline in sponsorship since the COVID shutdown. Butch urged the sponsorship of younger people while noting the overall age of the Community. One good way to do this, if you have children over the age of 18, would be to sponsor them and ensure Emmaus is passed along to the next generation.



## Upcoming Walks

**WALK #524 TO BE SEPTEMBER 12-15**—Walk #524 will be led by the Holy Spirit and Roxann Edsell. The Spiritual Director is Lori Carden and the team will be from the South Shelby/B'ham East and B'ham South Cluster Grouping. There are currently 27 ladies assigned to #524, and we still have THREE of them!!!! **Pam Jones of Florence sponsored by Bradley & Stephanie Hipps and Willie Jones; Kristie Wardlaw of Florence sponsored by Bradley & Stephanie Hipps; and Robyn Garrett of Muscle Shoals sponsored by Roy & Celia Rudolph.** Woo Hoo!!! Three Pilgrims from the Shoals! Plan now for Candlelight and welcoming them back!

**SEPTEMBER 26-29 IS DATE FOR WALK #525**—The Holy Spirit and Al Killen will lead Walk #525 on September 26 –29. The Spiritual Director is Mitch Nethery, and the team will be coming from the Franklin/Haleyville/Marion County Cluster Grouping. As we go to press in August, there are now TEN men listed to attend. But again, there are NO Shoals area men on the list. So this is a golden opportunity for you to sponsor your Pilgrim! It would be no problem as far as the Walk being full, but you'd really have to get on the ball to get all your sponsorship duties fulfilled.

**WALK #526 IS OCTOBER 17 - 20**—On October 17 – 20, Walk #526 will be led by the Holy Spirit and Stephanie Kirby. Mike Densmore will serve as the Spiritual Director and the team will be from the Cheaha/East Alabama Cluster Grouping. At this time, there are 16 ladies assigned to this Walk, but the Shoals has none listed. If this date works for your Pilgrim, be sure to get busy with those preparations. You have time – but not lots of it!!!

### 2024 ALABAMA WALKS

#524 September 12-15 Women  
#525 September 26-29 Men  
#526 October 17-20 Women  
#527 November 7-10 Women

- 2024 CLUSTER BOARD**  
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**PAST CLUSTER DIRECTOR**  
Janice Alcorn  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
Georgia McCaig  
Jimmy McCollum

- 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**  
Aug—Tuscumbia First Methodist  
Sep—North Wood UMC  
Oct—Tuscumbia First Methodist  
Nov—North Wood UMC  
Dec—Tuscumbia First Methodist  
**2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**  
Jan—North Wood UMC

# The Apostle

Shoals Emmaus Cluster  
104 Lindsey Ct, Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674  
Website : [www.shoalscluster.com](http://www.shoalscluster.com)



## August is Open Meeting

By Jimmy McCollum—Editor

Do you have someone you would like to sponsor for an upcoming Walk but is a little uneasy about going? Here’s their chance to learn what the Walk is about and ask questions they may have.

August is our Annual Open Meeting Month in which a potential pilgrim is invited to attend and have any concerns put to rest.

After joining us for the fellowship meal, guests will be dismissed to one of the church’s class-rooms. There, Lynda Bottcher will join them where she will explain what the Walk is and be given a history of Emmaus. Also, guests may ask any questions they wish.

They will rejoin us in the sanctuary after any business or sharing by returning Pilgrims for singing, devotional and communion.

## What Do You Think?

The Alabama Community Board has assembled a committee to investigate ways to ‘recharge’ the Community. As noted elsewhere, Pilgrim sponsorship has declined 40% since the COVID shutdown and this impacts not only the survival of the Community, but the survival of Camp Sumatanga as well. This committee is chaired by board member Bill Rush of the Birmingham South Cluster and members are from all over the Community.

Do you have ideas or thoughts that might be helpful in restoring the joy of the Emmaus experience? Often this kind of renewal begins at the Cluster or Cluster Grouping level. If you’ve been around for a while, you know that when one group has a great idea, usually everyone else wants to jump on board and enjoy it, too.

So do you have a good idea? If you do, let Community Lay Director Butch Fennell know. His phone is 256-252-2795, and his email is [rod\\_fenn@yahoo.com](mailto:rod_fenn@yahoo.com).

## 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  
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