



Vol.22 No.3

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

July 2024

Community Humble Servants

Lay Director
Butch Fennell

Spiritual Director
Terri Milstead

Asst. Lay Director
Debra Baker

Asst. Spiritual Director
Ted Anderson

Community Coordinator
Lane Berry

Treasurer
Kathy Mitchell

Board Members

Denise Cone
Judy Anderson
David Speegle
Lynda Hall
Debra Baker
Anne Parris
Georgia McCaig
Bobby Jones
Bill Rush
James Dodwell
Sally Cofield
Ken Farr
Will Clay
Tim Cotton
Jimmy Grisham
Mary Lynn Whitten

Literature

Patricia Bush

Supplies

Pam Kirsch

Community Agape

Bruce Parris

Name Tags

Dan Bell

Newsletter

Stephen Milstead

Charity

By Butch Fennell, Community Lay Director

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

-2 Corinthians 9:7 (King James Bible)



There are many ways of giving to the Father and our neighbor. We all give with our physical and spiritual gifts, but to me the most precious gift we can offer is our time. We each have a limited amount of this precious commodity. None of us know how much we have or when it will run out. Only the Father knows these things.

As we grow in our faith and hope, we begin to realize just how important it is to be charitable with our time to our brothers and sisters in Christ. One of the best ways I have found to give to Christ and my neighbor is through the Emmaus program.

I get to draw closer to Jesus and help my neighbor become a better leader in his or her church. The blessings we receive from these charitable gifts to our neighbors are too numerous to count.

I hope and pray you will find time to participate in the memorial service on August 9, 6-9 p.m. and the training event on August 10, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.. To live a successful Christian life, you need faith, hope, and charity.

DeColores.

Lenses for Living

By Terri Milstead, Community Spiritual Director

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

-Matthew 22:34-40

The question posed here to Jesus was a devilishly tricky one. The rabbis had counted 613 commands in the Law. 613. Which ONE is greatest, they ask. While it was not at all unheard of for a rabbi to give a summary of the Law, this question, "Which one law is the greatest?", alluded to a commonly held view that all Law was equal. If all Law was equal, any human who attempted to rank the Law would be making a human presumption about the divine Law. In asking this question then, the asker was trying to get Jesus to disparage some part of the law, something that would surely be grounds for his arrest.

In his answer, Jesus points to two great foundations of the Jewish faith, of our Christian faith, and of his entire life and ministry. The first, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,' is a portion of what was known to the Jews as the Shema, words that were part of prayers twice a day, words that were taught to children, words that Jews were known to utter as their last words.

(Please See Milstead Page 2.)

August 10 AL Emmaus Training Event

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2024

Registration Fee: \$5

Don't wait until the last minute!

August will be here before we know it and it will be time for the Annual Emmaus Training Event. Even though it's possible to simply "show up" and attend training classes on the day of the event, **it would be a HUGE help for those who plan to attend to register ahead of time.** Knowing how many would like to participate in each class will help with scheduling and decisions on class locations.

So, please find the form in this newsletter and register NOW before you forget.

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>

Milstead

(continued from Page 1)

The second, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' is from a section of Leviticus that underscores a vision of a world that is marked by just human relations and practical care of one another.

Jesus is saying here that these two things are the lenses through which we can see the entire Law.

Love of God and love of neighbor. These are how we test if we truly understand the Law, how we test if we truly understand what God is asking of us.

Love of God and love of neighbor. Jesus is quite clear that these are things we are compelled to do, they are our purposes in life.

Love of God and love of neighbor. We measure all that we do against these. Everything hangs on these.

Given this, we have some challenging questions to ask of ourselves:

Are we loving God, respecting God, serving God in all we are doing and saying?

Are we loving our neighbor, respecting and serving and caring for our neighbor in all we are doing and saying?

I am grateful to the Alabama Emmaus Community for offering a unique opportunity to practice love of God and love of neighbor but, as we know, these commandments are about more than what happens when we are serving within Emmaus. It is about more than what happens when we are serving within our churches. It is, quite simply, about what happens in every interaction we have and in every quiet moment we spend.

May we all be known, wherever we go, as those who lead with love, just like Jesus.

De Colores.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
523	Aug 8-11	Terry Lewis	Byron Vance	Huntsville	Anne Parris Tim Cotton
524	Sept 12-15	Roxann Edsall	Lori Carden	So. Shelby / B'ham East / B'ham South	Denise Cone Bill Rush
525	Sept 26-29	Al Killen	Mitch Nethery	Franklin / Haleyville Marion	Lynda Hall Ken Farr
526	Oct 17-20	Stephanie Kirby	Mike Densmore	East Alabama / Cheaha	Judy Anderson James Dodwell

*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!

IT'S ALL UP TO US...

By Lane Berry, Community Coordinator

As I write this, we have the following scheduled for the next 5 Walks:

Walk 523(M), August 8-11 – 21 applications

Walk 524 (W) Sept. 12-15 – 27 applications (FULL!)

Walk 525 (M) Sept. 26-29 – 7 applications

Walk 526 (W) Oct. 17-20 - 1 application

Walk 527 (W) Nov. 7-10 – 1 application

We obviously need pilgrims in order to sustain our Community.

Since we had to pause Walks during the pandemic, applications are down almost 40% compared to 2019 and prior years.

Please prayerfully consider who God may lead you to approach about the Emmaus Walk, we all know it is a life-changing experience. Who might you want to afford that opportunity?

God Bless.

DeColores!

Lane

2024-2025 Walk Schedule

<u>WALK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
523	Aug 8-11	Men
524	Sept 12-15	Women
525	Sept 26-29	Men
526	Oct 17-20	Women
527	Nov 7-10	Women
	<u>2025</u>	
528	Feb 20-23	Women
529	Mar 6-9	Men
530	Mar 20-23	Women
531	Apr 24-27	Women
532	May 15-18	Men

Board Bits

Some of the most valuable pieces of permanent agape that have been given to the Alabama Emmaus community are the banners. Hundreds of hours have been spent over the forty plus years of the Alabama Emmaus Community to make the banners for the pilgrims and the community. The only way they can be seen and appreciated is if they are hung during a walk. On a recent walk, the agape team was able to hang every banner in the banner room in the halls and rooms of Hutto. The Alabama Emmaus Board encourages future teams to display as many banners as possible, so that all pilgrims can be blessed by them.

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

Praying For You

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

The family of **Donna Overton (325)**

Melinda Luker (204) and children, Amanda, Abby, and Chase in the loss of her husband and their father, **Charlie Luker (219)**

John Chastain (172) in the loss of his wife, **Jeanette (114)**

The family of **Bernie Swider (486)**

Anita Long (142) in the loss of her husband, **Rev. Carl Long (108)**

Patricia Tate (168), Lynda Vest (226), Lisa Manly Moates (236), and Laura Bawcum (249) in the loss of their mother, **Lorain DeVito (215)**

Mary Lou McKee (142) in the loss of her sister, **Bobbie Colvin (120)**

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 523
August 8-11, 2024**

Lay Director Terry Lewis - Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Mark Hedden
Rolo Weaver – 4th Day
Scott Key – Priority
Stephen Milstead
Grant Preston
Mark Gero

Spiritual Director Byron Vance – Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Bill Crosby – Obstacles to Grace
Eric Bagwell – Justifying Grace
Belinda Rives – Sanctifying Grace
Chris Whitehead – Prevenient Grace

Music Chairperson Ken Mason

Assistant Table Leaders

Jason Dunham – Body of Christ
Bill Johnson – Discipleship
Chris Comer – Piety
Charles Jones – Changing Our World
Vann Bragg – Priesthood of all Believers
George Bracey – Christian Action
John J “JJ” May – Growth Through Study

Table Leaders

Spike McCroy
Kade Haas
Frank Barger
Lee Riddle
Rich Reid
Edward Melendez
Jeff Hawkins

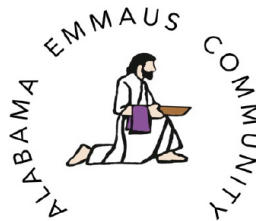
Board Reps Anne Parris
Tim Cotton

Committees

Agape Laura Bracey 256-603-4449
Food Service Alice Gero
Refreshments Sandy May & Dawn Knox 256-763-4592
Prayer Vigil Marty Bryan 256-348-8666
Housing Chrystal Whitehead 205-516-1272
Candlelight Leigh Martin 256-731-9955
Clean-up Susan Lewis 256-652-1960
Closing Amy Seymour 256-426-0079
Entertainment Carolyn & Paul Bakke 256-604-0820
Follow-up Sandra Jones 256-479-2832
Prayer Chapel Rica McCroy 256-527-2906
Sponsor’s Hour Joyce Smith 256-714-8689
Worship Tara Dombrowsky 256-714-2466
Photographer Charlie Blass 256-508-8311
Humble Servants Susan Lewis 256-652-1960

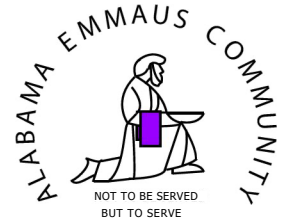
Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Brad Hall	Blountsville	David Wilson & Romera Henderson
William (Russ) Mathis	Boaz	David Socha & Lisa Socha
Rob Thomas	Boaz	Lee Martin
Jacob Vann	Boaz	Lee Martin
Tank Conerly	Guntersville	Terrell England & Roslyn England
Daniel Paschal	Guntersville	Don Hill
Eldher Maeda	Hamilton	Ana Colburn & Holly Colburn
Shane Stidham	Hamilton	Jeff Halcomb & Jeff Halcomb
Darryl Benefield	Hazel Green	Teek Patnaik
David Gregory Marsh	Hoover	Harry Dinken & Hank Patterson
Brad Hinton	Hueytown	Scottie Blair & Andy Nolen
Jason Alley	Huntsville	Dennis Cornelison & Fran Cornelison
Steve Rogers	Huntsville	Eddie Johnson & Ann Turner
Wayne Dickerson	Madison	Ron Sales & George Lyrene
Randy Dotson	Moody	Jeanie Dotson & Juia Bianchi
George Sokol	Moody	Julia Bianchi & Jeanie Dotson
Billy Stacy	Northport	Elbert Patterson & Terri Stacy
Cliff Fry	Oneonta	Joe Hastings
Lynn Miller	Owens Cross Roads	Teek Patnaik
David Cleveland	Pelham	Randy Nelson
Michael Jones	Piedmont	Ted Anderson & Judy Hay Anderson
Greg Cook	Winfield	Joel White & Kerri White





Alabama Emmaus Community
 Annual Overnight Training Event
 Retreat Center - Camp Sumatanga
 August 9-10, 2024
 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 9 & 10, 2024. 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, 2 and 3, and rooms are first come, first served. If you wish to serve the pilgrims of Walk 523, 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 Aug 1st. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Bill Rush (205) 612-9397 or wmgrush@gmail.com.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TODAY TO BILL RUSH
AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW
Registration Deadline is August 1st, 2024

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: Bill Rush

1855 Lake Ridge Road

Homewood, AL 35216

(205) 612-9397

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, August 9th

5:00-7:00	Registration, 2 nd 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 10th

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	Butch Fennell, 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

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 2nd 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 523. If you wish to serve a meal on Walk 523, 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.