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

APOSTLE

THE SHOALS CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 26 Number 1
JANUARY 2024

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. — Ephesians 2:10 NLT

NEXT CLUSTER MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

6:00 P.M.

NORTH WOOD UMC

1129 WILLS AVE. – FLORENCE

BRING:

COVERED DISH

Worship Guide

Name Badge

GOOD JOKES

Joyful Noise Voice

An Emmaus Friend

-AND YOU!!!

(NURSERY PROVIDED)

Overcoming the World

Happy New Year! Do you have any resolutions in mind for this year? In 2023, the top resolutions were to exercise more, eat healthier, lose weight, save money, and spend more time with family and friends. While all of those are admirable goals, let us resolve to overcome.

In his writing in Revelation, John gives us what we are to overcome and the results:

"He who overcomes the world, by adhering faithfully to Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior, will in these things". (Revelation 21:7 AMP)

Overcoming the sinfulness of the world is a difficult resolution to keep, but the reward is eternal. John gives us a glimpses of what our inheritances ("these things") will look like, and the highlight is that God will be with us:

"He (God) will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away". (Revelation 21:4 NIV)



HAPPY NEW YEAR

As believers, when overcoming sin and temptations of this world seems impossible, remember the One who has already overcome is within you. You now can cry tears of joy!!!

Upcoming Walks

According Lane Berry, Community Coordinator, Walk #518, a ladies walk scheduled for February 1-4, is full. In addition, Walk #519, a men's walk scheduled for March 7-10, has only six applicants so far. Please reach out to that fellow you may have considered asking about the Walk.

Walk	Date	Pilgrim	Sponsor	Lay Leader	Spiritual Director	Group
#518	Feb. 1-4	Amelia Rudolph	Roy & Celia Rudolph	Cathy Parker	Paul Vick	Cheaha / East Alabama
#519	Mar. 7-10			Jim Maynard	Larry Hogan	Shoals / Athens
#520	Mar. 14-17			Lee Ann O'Toole	Cam Price	Blount County / Cullman
#521	Apr 18-21			Melissa Barnes	Preston Headrick	Tuscaloosa / West Alabama

Amelia, daughter-in-law of Roy and Celia Rudolph, is among those attending Walk #518. She's from Madison and If you'd like to write her a letter, that would be great.

If you are sponsoring for the first time, or if you haven't sponsored in some time, pick up a Shoals Cluster Sponsorship Packet at the information Table or check with our Cluster Sponsorship Chairperson, Pete Peeden.

2024 ALABAMA WALKS

#518 February 1-4 Women

#519 March 7-10 Men

#520 March 14-17 Women

#521 April 18-21 Women

#522 May 2-5 Men

2024 CLUSTER BOARD

CLUSTER LEADER

Stephanie Hipps

ASSIT CLUSTER LEADER

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Bart Bowlin

ASST SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Bradley Hipps

CLUSTER COORDINATOR

Allison Brooks

SECRETARY

Jane Almond

ASST SECRETARY

Patricia Jester

TREASURER

Anita Whitaker

ASST TREASURER

Mitch Dobbins

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Don Kirk

REUNION GROUP COORDINATOR

Donnie Armstrong

MUSIC

Chad Kennington

DATABASE

Jonathan Killen

AGAPE

Brenda Quesenberry

ASST AGAPE

Jean Peeden

SPONSORSHIP

Pete Peeden

CLEOPAS CONNECTION

Roy Rudolph

Celia Rudolph

ASST CLEOPAS CONNECTION

Mike Creecy

Patsy Killen

RECONNECTION

Georgia McCaig

72-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Mitch Dobbins

INFORMATION TABLE

Glenda Sue Peeden

WEB SERVANT

Jimmy McCollum

PAST CLUSTER DIRECTOR

Janice Alcorn

The Apostle

Shoals Emmaus Cluster

104 Lindsey Ct, Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

Website : www.shoalscluster.com



New Community Coordinator: Lane Berry

Hello! My name is Lane Berry, I attended Alabama Emmaus Walk 137 and sat at the table of John.

My wife, Lee, and I worship at Hokes Bluff First Methodist Church. I am a member of the Gadsden Cluster and have also been a member of the Marshall and Cullman Clusters. I am honored and humbled to be serving as your new Coordinator for our Alabama Emmaus Community as of September of this year.

I understand I have huge shoes to fill in taking over for Angel Rait who served our Community with so much dedication and compassion. Thank you, Angel, for your excellent training and help as I have settled in.

Please know that I am available to help in any way possible as it relates to our Community and scheduling pilgrims for upcoming Walks.

— Copied from the December, 2023 Grapevine Newsletter

Shoals Cluster Began as a Small Group

The Shoals Cluster began with a meeting at the home of Chuck and Elaine Beard in March of 1985.

By 1985, the Alabama Community had divided the whole state into 15 cluster areas, following the general configuration of the districts of the North Alabama Conference of the UMC. Ours was shown as Cluster #1, and it was comprised of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Lawrence counties and refer to as the Florence Cluster before renaming as the Shoals Cluster.

At that first meeting there most had been about a dozen in attendance. There was always a devotional and prayer. Also, singing accompanied by Elaine and her autoharp. The group always enjoyed refreshments and fellowship, and usually made agape. Many remembered the small decorative apples that had, "You are the apple of God's eye" written on them. These were usually sent for the women's walks. For the men's walks, a favorite was the black pocket combs that carried the message, "Even the hairs of your head are numbered."

Read more about the history of the Shoals Cluster at: [History \(shoalscluster.com\)](http://History(shoalscluster.com)).

Is Your Reunion Group Up-to-Date?

Has your reunion group's name, date or time, meeting place, or contact person changed recently? You will need to let our Reunion Group Coordinator, Donnie Armstrong be aware of the change. If you are not sure if we have the correct information, you can check the Cluster's website at: [Reunion Groups \(shoalscluster.com\)](http://Reunion Groups (shoalscluster.com)).

If you have started or interesting in forming a new reunion group, you need to let Donnie know his as well. You can print and fill in the form on our website at: [Reunion Interest Form.pdf \(wsimg.com\)](http://Reunion Interest Form.pdf (wsimg.com)).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Shoals Cluster Leader STEPHANIE HIPPS – (000) 000-0000 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)

2024 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