



The

"WHERE YOU HAVE FUN AND GET A BLESSING!"

# APOSTLE

www.shoalscluster.com

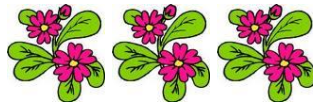
THE SHOALS CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Number 5  
MAY 2023

*But all things are from God, Who reconciled us to Jesus and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation.*  
*II Corinthians 5:18*

- 2023 CLUSTER BOARD**
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**#513 SET FOR AUG. 10-13**  
Walk #513 is another Men's Walk, led by the Holy Spirit and Ryan Rickert. The Spiritual Director for this Walk will be Preston Headrick and the team will come from the Tuscaloosa/West Alabama Grouping. At this time, there are men assigned to this Walk. Right now, none of these men is from the Shoals. This Walk is now three months out, so if this is the Walk you want your Pilgrim on, now would be the time to get that application in. This Walk is also the same weekend as the Annual Training Event that includes the Memorial Service for all the Community members who have passed away in the past year. This Walk always fills, so if you want your Pilgrim on this one, be sure to get his application in soon!



**#514 WILL BE SEP. 14-17**  
This Women's Walk will be led by the Holy Spirit and Lisa Smith from the Gadsden/Marshall Cluster Grouping. The Spiritual Director for this Walk will be Terry Bentley. Due to the illness of Angel Rait, our Community Coordinator, we do not have a current report on the Pilgrims assigned to this Walk.



**#515 IS SEP. 28 - OCT. 1**  
Walk #515 is another Women's Walk and will be led by the Holy Spirit and Sherry Johnson. The Spiritual Director for the Walk will be Sherrill Clontz. Due to the illness of our Community Coordinator, we do not have a current report on the Pilgrims assigned to this Walk.

## NEXT CLUSTER MEETING

TUESDAY  
MAY 16, 2023

6:00 p.m.

**NORTH WOOD UMC**  
1129 WILLS AVE. - FLORENCE, AL

**BRING:**  
**COVERED DISH**

Worship Guide  
Name Badge  
**GOOD JOKES**  
Joyful Noise Voice  
An Emmaus Friend  
**-AND YOU!!!**

(NURSERY PROVIDED)

## #512

### **WAS THE BEST WALK EVER!**

In early April, folks thought this Walk would never make it. But guess what!?! It was the first full Walk since COVID!!! Isn't that so exciting!?! And all 27 assigned Pilgrims attended! It was a beautiful weekend after the rain on Friday. Our team just fit the restricted housing that was available while the repairs were still being made to Retreat Centers 2, 4 and 5. If you haven't heard about it yet, get someone who was there to tell you. It was AWESOME!



## ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT

The Annual Training Event is coming up the weekend of Aug. 11-12. If you did not see the application form in the April issue of *The Grapevine*, you can find it on the Community website at [alaemmaus.org](http://alaemmaus.org). On the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> we will have the annual memorial service for all members who have gone to be with the Lord from May 2022 - May 2023. This service is at 7:00 p.m. and is held in the meeting room on the second floor of the Camp's McKinney-Atkins office building. If you are interested in taking part in the entire training event, the classes are offered the next day, Aug. 12. In that case you should complete the registration form and submit it by Aug. 5. It gives the options of room and board for the weekend and includes dinner on Friday night. Even if you've attended many times, this is always a great refresher, as there are revisions and updates on a regular basis.



## 2023 ALABAMA WALKS

- #513 Aug 10-13 Men
- #514 Sep 14-17 Women
- #515 Sep 28-Oct 1 Women
- #516 Oct. 19-22 Men
- #517 Nov. 9-12 Women

## 2024 ALABAMA WALKS

- #518 Feb 1-4 Women
- #519 Mar 7-10 Men
- #520 Mar 14-17 Women
- #521 Apr 18-21 Women
- #522 May 2-5 Men

**SHOALS EMMAUS CLUSTER**  
4409 Misty Mountain Road  
Tuscumbia AL 35674



Or - On the Web at  
[www.shoalscluster.com](http://www.shoalscluster.com)



### RG CORNER

The following suggestion is exactly that – it’s just a suggestion. There are some Reunion Groups who bring a \$1 apiece to each meeting and build a fund to fill needs they see around them. This could be a family in need, a ministry, or any good deed the group would like to do. It is, of course not a part of the original design of an accountability group and is not required. It’s just a thought.

### SPONSORSHIP 101

It’s a natural part of being a sponsor to be really excited about putting it all together. We all see a person that we want to ‘share the love’ with, and regardless of how well we might know them, we offer them the chance to attend. Why does it matter how well we know them? For one thing, it’s important to know who they know and who knows them in order to gather the letters for them. If the ones you choose aren’t really who matters to them, or if you really have no way to contact the ones who do matter, you are selling them short on an important part of their weekend. And if you

don’t really know them, you may not be familiar with the connection they have with their home church. And after all, that’s what Emmaus is all about – building leadership in the local church. Is this person even a church member? And if you don’t happen to live where the person you want to sponsor lives, how will you handle getting that person to their follow up? These are important items for you as a sponsor to do well for your Pilgrim. And these are just a few. So regardless of how excited you may be, consider first how able you are.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Shoals Cluster Leader JANICE ALCORN – (256) 710-7739  
Cluster Spiritual Director BART BOWLIN (256) 762-2011  
Community Coordinator Angel Rait [Office@alaemmaus.org](mailto:Office@alaemmaus.org)  
P.O. Box 38 – Cropwell, AL 35054 (205) 812-0345  
Community Treasurer Kathy Mitchell – (256)-794-5196  
Camp Sumatanga – (256) 538-9860 (Prompt #5)

### DID YOU HELP?

Were you a part of those who put the golf tournament together? If so, kudos to you! Thanks go to all of you for making it a success! If you put together any of the teams or were able to secure any of the hole sponsorships or other kind of donations, thank you so much! A suggestion was made in the board meeting that those who helped in these ways write thank you notes to the individuals who came through with this help. As you know, this will enable some future Pilgrims attend their Walk!



### **2023 MEETING SCHEDULE**

May - North Wood U M C  
Jun - Tuscumbia First Methodist  
Jul - North Wood U M C  
Aug - Tuscumbia First Methodist  
Sep - North Wood U M C  
Oct - Tuscumbia First Methodist  
Nov - North Wood U M C  
Dec - Tuscumbia First Methodist