



The

# APOSTLE

THE SHOALS CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 22, Number 10  
OCTOBER 2020

*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; as the rivers of water, He turneth it whithersoever He will.*  
*Proverbs 21:1*

**2020 CLUSTER BOARD**

**LAY DIRECTOR**

Clay Hammond

**ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR**

Joe Peeden

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

Mark Parris

**ASST SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

Sam Hardie

**CLUSTER COORDINATOR**

Janice Alcorn

**SECRETARY**

Allison Brooks

**ASST. SECRETARY**

Patricia Jester

**TREASURER**

Anita Whitaker

**ASST. TREASURER**

Mitch Dobbins

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**COORDINATOR**

Stephanie Hipps

**REUNION GROUP**

**COORDINATOR**

Mary Kate Mills

**MUSIC**

John Schuessler

**DATABASE**

Melissa Parks

**ASST. DATABASE**

Jonathan Killen

**AGAPE**

Brenda Quesenberry

Megan Smith-Keenum

**SPONSORSHIP**

Jean Peeden

**ASST. SPONSORSHIP**

Katie Dobbins

**CLEOPAS CONNECTION**

Lisa Keys-Mathews

Deborah Whitten

Joe Holley

**RECONNECTION**

Georgia McCaig

**72-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL**

Mary Lee Dobbins

**INFORMATION TABLE**

Cathy Everett

**WEBSERVANT**

Jimmy McCollum

**PAST CLUSTER DIRECTOR**

Revonda Twesme

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**2021 ALABAMA WALKS**

#494 Feb. 4-7 Women

#495 Mar. 4-7 Men

**#496 Apr. 8-11 Women**

#497 May 20-23 Men

#498 June 17-20 Women

#499 July 15-18 Women

#500 Aug. 12-15 Men

#501 Aug. 26-29 Women

#502 Sep. 9-12 Women

#503 Oct. 14-17 Men

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE SEVEN MONTHS MAKES!!!**

As you are all aware, we were not able to have our March meeting, and have not met since. However, the Cluster Board has decided to have the October meeting! As usual by our regular calendar, we will meet at Tuscumbia 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist. **BUT** – there will be **no food!** No covered dish for now. This is just the protocol for now. Hopefully, this will all be back to normal in soon! So - here's the deal:

- The church asks that you mask.
- There will be social distancing.
- Communion will be done with individual cups that are pre-packed with a wafer and juice.

Even though there will be no meal, plans are being made to make this a **VERY SPECIAL EVENING!** You don't want to miss it!!!!!! As we go to press, it's not clear if the meeting will be in the sanctuary or in the Family Life Center. So - **REGARDLESS**, please come to the Family Life Center door as usual, and you will be directed to the proper area. It's been way too long since we've seen each other! So do plan to come if you're able!



**WALK UP DATES**

Check the revised dates of the Walks that were postponed this year. The dates to the left  are current as known at this time. Camp Sumatanga **IS** planning to be open in 2021.

**NEXT CLUSTER MEETING**

*Tuesday*

**OCTOBER 20, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

*Where you have fun and get a blessing!!!*

**TUSCUMBIA FUMC**

BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN TUSCUMBIA  
TUSCUMBIA, AL

**BRING:**

Worship Guide

Name Badge

**GOOD JOKES**

Joyful Noise Voice

An Emmaus Friend

**-AND YOU!!!**

(NURSERY PROVIDED)

**NEW CAMP DIRECTOR**

Last week, Camp Sumatanga Board of Trustees named a new Executive Director. Tony Jones got the nod and will be on duty November 2. Many of you know Tony from his serving as Spiritual Director on a number of Walks from this Cluster Grouping. And he is currently the Spiritual Director of the Athens Cluster. Tony and his wife, Shannon, will live on campus, and they are both excited to be making Sumatanga their home. He said, "Shannon and I are incredibly humbled, excited, and a little anxious about the new ministry opportunity set before us." Tony is an Elder in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church where he has been in full time ministry for the past 15 years, most recently serving as the Senior Pastor at Isom's Chapel in Athens. He continues the long line of clergy who previously served in this position, dating back to Bert Goodwin.

**IT'S DONE!**

**IT'S FINALLY PAID!!!**

Our Camp Sumatanga pledge has been paid in full! That calls for a **CELEBRATION** and a big HALLELUJAH!!! In 2008, there was a need to replace the wastewater treatment plant. At that time, Bob Murray was the Camp Director. Our Cluster pledged the \$400,000 needed to do that. Many of us have given regularly and lots of us have helped with all kinds of fundraising efforts. In 2013, the Director at the time was able to repair the facility and offered to allow us to cut our pledge significantly and it dropped to #225,000. (His repairs cost them \$40,000.) This September, the remaining amount due was less than \$200, and our Treasurer, Anita Whitaker, asked if the Board would allow her to pay that final amount from the General Fund. The vote was `yea' and she wrote the check. Isn't God good?! It would be interesting to know if any other Cluster has contributed that much to Camp Sumatanga.



**2021 WALK CHANGES**

If the 2020 July Walks had happened, they were to be held across the road from Hutto in McKinney-Atkins. As changes have continued to occur at Camp, the Trustees have asked that Emmaus basically move across the road. This requires huge changes in how and where it all happens. At this time, the only thing not across the road is Candlelight, which will still be held in Hutto. Like much of the rest of our world at this point – stay tuned!

SHOALS EMMAUS CLUSTER  
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Tuscumbia AL 35674



Find Us On

Or - On the Web at

[www.shoalscluster.com](http://www.shoalscluster.com)

#### RG CORNER

How has your group fared during this time of isolation? Are you back to in-person meetings? If you are, that's likely with social distancing and masks. If you are still having group texts or even a Zoom meeting, that's at least having contact. As we all know, this is the most important part of the Group Reunion – sharing the tie that binds. God has always known it's not good for us to be alone, so He made us to desire to be with others. If there is a member of your group who can't yet join you in person, do make contact another way.



#### CALLING POST

To hear the current message for the Shoals Cluster on our computerized phone service, dial **1-800-925-7443** and enter the **ID# - 1999 568 996**

#### SPONSORSHIP 101

The art of sponsorship is really ramping up. What in the world does that mean? It just means that as rapidly as things are changing with Emmaus, a good sponsor is going to have to stay on top of it all. The change from the East Wing to the Retreat Centers for Pilgrims is still the same. But with the Walks held in McKinney-Atkins, you will register there and take your Pilgrim just next door to Retreat Centers 1 and 2. The big issue there is the limited parking for that duty, and you will have to do that quickly. Sponsors' Hour will be in that

Dining Room, so you will need to find a parking place elsewhere and get you and your Pilgrim back there. Candlelight is to be in Hutto as usual – at least as it stands now. But Closing is to be back in the Dining Room of McKinney-Atkins. While this is close to where your Pilgrim is housed, you again have the parking issue. You only have a moment to retrieve the luggage and then go to park elsewhere. Make sure to check this newsletter and the *Grapevine*. Stay in touch with your Board Rep.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Community Coordinator Angel Rait [Office@alaemmaus.org](mailto:Office@alaemmaus.org)  
P.O. Box 38 – Cropwell, AL 35054 (205) 812-0345  
Community Treasurer Jim Sims – (205)-531-4965  
Camp Sumatanga – (256) 538-9860 (Prompt #5)

#### 2021 CLUSTER OFFICERS

The Cluster Board voted in its September meeting to carry forward the 2020 slate of officers. Having had only two meetings this year, those new in their positions have not been able see what their responsibilities are. Those on the board have agreed to serve another year. The only exception in the Spiritual Director. The term for this position ends in May, so the board made that change at that time. Assistant Spiritual Director, Mark Parris became the new Spiritual Director, and Sam Hardie was named the Assistant Spiritual Director.



#### 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

##### FLORENCE FUMC

January, March, May,  
July, September, November

##### TUSCUMBIA FUMC

February, April, June, August,  
**OCTOBER**, December