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

APOSTLE

THE SHOALS CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 27 Number 3
MARCH 2025

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, MARCH 18

6:00 P.M.

NORTH WOOD UMC

1129 WILLS AVENUE

FLORENCE, ALABAMA

BRING:

COVERED DISH

Worship Guide

Name Badge

GOOD JOKES

Joyful Noise Voice

An Emmaus Friend

-AND YOU!!!

(NURSERY PROVIDED)

Camp Updates

There are some really great updates going on at Camp! For one thing, the Refreshment Room has been repainted, and there is a strong possibility that the Conference Room and Pilgrim's Prayer Chapel will be also! Carpet in the Pilgrims' Prayer Chapel and the Speakers' Prayer Chapel has been replaced with carpet squares.



With these upgrades, there is a new procedure for hanging anything in the building. You may not ever use nails. For some things you may use tape, but it must be painter's tape. However, no tape may be used in the freshly painted Refreshment Room. Instead, plastic hooks from the ceiling tile frames and fishing line work well. And in the Retreat Center, no names will be attached to the hall doors, but to the door frames.

Join Us On Facebook

Both Shoals Emmaus Cluster and the Alabama Emmaus Community have Facebook groups you can join to get online information about Emmaus events. You can find the Shoals Emmaus Cluster Facebook icon on page 2 under the return address. The Alabama Emmaus Community Facebook icon is to the right.



Upcoming Walks

WALK #530 UP NEXT ON MARCH 20-23—Walk #530 will be led by the Holy Spirit and Jacque Clay, with Sherry Reynolds serving as the Spiritual Director. The team will come from the Gadsden/Marshall County Cluster Grouping. As of this March newsletter, there are 12 ladies assigned to this Walk. There are no Shoals area Pilgrims assigned yet to this Walk, but Athens does have one. Next Monday, March 17, is the last day applications will be accepted for this Walk, so at this point, the timeframe would be very difficult to meet.

APRIL 24-27 IS THE DATE FOR #531—This April Walk is another Women's Walk and will be led by the Holy Spirit and Sandra May. Sandra is from the Huntsville Cluster, and this is where she will be looking to form her team. Sherrill Clontz is serving as the Spiritual Director for this Walk. With this Walk a month away, there are 11 ladies on the list at this point. We have no Shoals area Pilgrims listed on this Walk at this time, but you do have time to get your Pilgrim included. April 14 would be the last day you could



make that happen. Why not give it a try?

WALK #532 TO BE MAY 15-18—Eric Barr is the Lay Director for #532 and he is from the Birmingham East Cluster of the grouping that also included Birmingham South and South Shelby. This group will provide the team for #532 and Sam Frazier will be the Spiritual Director. There are currently 8 men listed as assigned to this Walk, but again, no men from the Shoals. The last date to turn in an application for this one would be May 5. You can do that! Why not give it a try?!

2025 ALABAMA WALKS

#530 March 20-23 Women

#531 April 24-27 Women

#532 May 15-18 Men

#533 August 7-10 Women

#534 September 11-14 Women

#535 September 25-28 Women

#536 October 16-19 Men

#537 November 6-9 Women

- 2025 CLUSTER BOARD**
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Jimmy McCollum
PAST CLUSTER DIRECTOR
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- 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**
Mar—North Wood UMC
Apr—Tuscumbia First Methodist
May—North Wood UMC
Jun—Tuscumbia First Methodist
Jul—North Wood UMC
Aug—Tuscumbia First Methodist
Sep—North Wood UMC

The Apostle

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Alabama Emmaus Community Board News

The Alabama Emmaus Board is currently working hard to bring the Pilgrim application process into the 21st century! Plans are in place to soon have the application online, possibly on the Community website, where the information can be entered and sent to the Emmaus office. Also very soon, there will be a Venmo account to enable fees to be paid electronically. It will be important to keep checking the Grapevine and the Community website for updates!

In similar fashion, the board voted in its March meeting to include a document with the Group Reunion cards given to Pilgrims that has QR codes to enable new Pilgrims to locate groups that meet electronically. While in-person meetings are always the best, there are times when meeting physically may not be an option. This document suggests several options, including Zoom and Google Meet. Some Reunion Groups have been meeting electronically ever since COVID, but this enables virtually all members of the Community at large to avail themselves of it. This effort is the result of work done by the Strategic Planning Committee created by the AEC board last year to revitalize the Community.

Yet another idea promoted by the Strategic Planning Committee is the creation of Emmaus branded merchandise. These items may soon be available for purchase to be given as gifts, or to be sold with the t-shirts on the Book Table during Walks. Again, be watching for announcements regarding these developments.

Reunion Groups

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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://www.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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