



Vol.23 No.4

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

August 2025

Community Humble Servants

Lay Director

Debra Baker

Spiritual Director

David Socha

Asst. Lay Director

Ken Farr

Asst. Spiritual Director

Jeff Fleming

Community Coordinator

Lane Berry

Treasurer

Kathy Mitchell

Board Members

Bill Rush

James Dodwell

Sally Cofield

Ken Farr

Will Clay

Tim Cotton

Jimmy Grisham

Mary Lynn Whitten

Jack Bailey

Stephanie Kirby Minix

Mickey Phillips

Carlin Burrow

Lisa Socha

Laura Bracey

William T. Peeden (Pete)

Melissa Barnes

Literature

Patricia Bush

Supplies

Pam Kirsch

Community Agape

Judy Anderson

Name Buttons

Dan Bell

Newsletter

Stephen Milstead

Where Two or Three Are Gathered: The Gift of Reunion Groups

By Debra Baker, Community Lay Director

Do you belong to an accountability group—or as we call it in Emmaus, a Reunion Group?

These small gatherings of Christians offer space for fellowship, study, prayer, and encouragement. They reflect Jesus' own promise in *Matthew 18:20*:

"Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them."

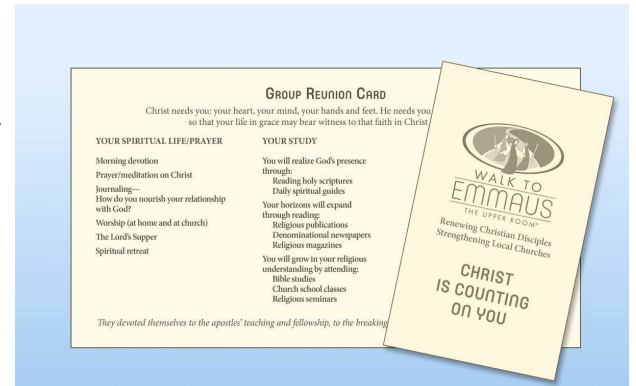
You may remember receiving a small card during the Perseverance talk on

Sunday afternoon, outlining the suggested format for these meetings. That same guide can be found on page 47 of your Worship Booklet.

Each week, your group can follow this simple but powerful rhythm:

- Reflect on your week's prayer, study, and action.
- Respond to these five questions together:
 1. When did you feel closest to Christ this week?
 2. In what moment did you most clearly hear and respond to God's call to discipleship?
 3. How did you participate in being the church—the heartbeat of Christ?
 4. When was your faith tested through failure?
 5. What is your plan for prayer, study, and action in the coming week?

(Please See Baker Page 3.)



Partners in Grace

By David Socha, Community Spiritual Director

And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple, which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. Acts 3:2

As we begin a new year together, I would like to say that it is an honor and privilege to serve as your Community Spiritual Director. I was invited by my sponsor to attend Alabama Emmaus Walk 51 in November 1987. The Emmaus Community has helped to shape me into the person I am today.

When I think of the lame beggar who sat at the gate of the temple begging for alms, I am reminded of the effort that it took to get him there. We are told in scripture that the men would get him there every day.



(Please See Socha Page 3.)

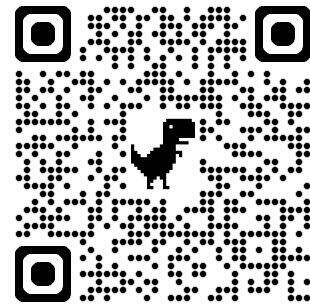
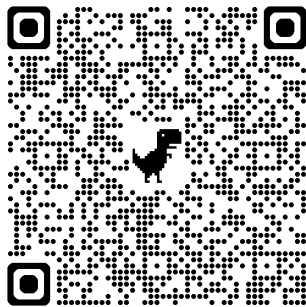
Reunion Groups - What do I need to know?

1. Being part of a reunion group is extremely important to maintaining a deeper walk with Christ.
2. In-person reunion groups are the BEST choice if one is available. Your sponsor should help you find a reunion group. If an in-person reunion group is unavailable, consider starting one with the assistance of your sponsor. It only takes two or more people to have an effective reunion group.
3. Online reunion groups are an option for those who live in areas where an in-person reunion group is unavailable. They also work well for people who have a busy schedule or childcare issues. Below you will find some suggestions for setting up an online reunion group.

Zoom - Zoom basic is free but has a time limitation of 40 minutes. If you need longer than 40 minutes, you can set up two links and have a quick bathroom break between the two meetings. A plan with more minutes is available for purchase.

Google Meet - Google Meet offers both free and paid options. The free version limits meetings to 60 minutes.

You can use the QR code to access the websites for each platform.



Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
534	Sept 11-14	Valrie Bain	David Gray	East Alabama / Cheaha	James Dodwell Stephanie Kirby Minix
535	Sept 25-28	Julie Martin	Larry Hogan	Athens / Moulton / Shoals	Jimmy Grisham Pete Peeden
536	Oct 16-19	Neil Branham	Tony Jones	Blount / Cullman	Sally Cofield Mickey Phillips
537	Nov 6-9	Katie Woodward	Alicia Rhodes	Tuscaloosa / West Alabama	Mary Lynn Whitten Melissa Barnes

*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!

Baker

(continued from Page 1)

These questions are meant to stir the soul. Over time, they help us walk more intentionally with Christ and with each other.

Reunion groups also provide a sacred space for prayer—lifting up each other, family members, and even the quiet, painful concerns we might not voice elsewhere. For this reason, trust and **confidentiality** are essential. What is said in the group stays in the group.

Meeting in a Modern World

There's no single "right" way to gather. In-person is ideal, but with full schedules and life's pace, some groups now meet on Zoom or Google Meet. These platforms are free for up to 30 minutes, and easy to set up (a QR code is available to help get you started). Some groups gather at home, in a church room, or even at a favorite restaurant. How you meet is up to you—what matters is that you do.

Becoming a Sanctuary

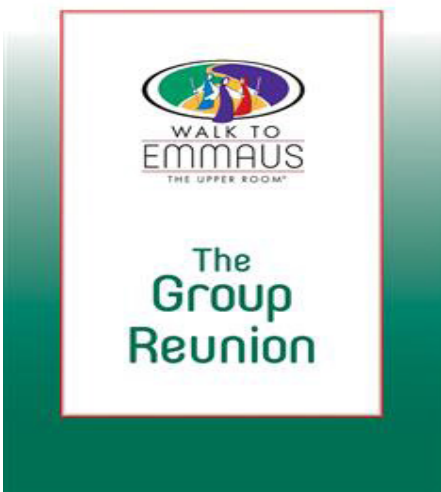
As followers of Christ, we strive each day to become living sanctuaries for the Holy Spirit—open, receptive, and grounded in love.

So let us press on with John Wesley's call to holiness of heart and life. Let us invite Christ to dwell richly within us, not just in our meetings, but in every moment.

Let's close by singing together:

*Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true,
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.*

De Colores,
Debra Baker
Community Lay Director



Socha

(continued from Page 1)

Each day he would beg for alms. Peter and John came to the temple to pray, and Peter had the man to fix his eyes upon him. Peter did not have alms, but he had something greater. He offered him Jesus and told him in the name of Jesus get up and walk. Peter took him by the hand, and he was raised able to walk.



The scripture says he walked, leaped and danced as he entered the temple. The man's life was forever changed. He was then able to hear Peter's second sermon. People noticed the change in this man.

As I reflect on this story, I think about the unnamed men who brought him to the temple. I also think of the role Peter and John had in this story. The story is similar to a person being a sponsor of someone on the Walk to Emmaus. A great deal of effort went into bringing the man to the temple. Great effort is also required in being a sponsor for someone on the walk. The reward is certainly worth the effort as you see a life changed. It is a joy and privilege to be a sponsor. Let us be that servant who can be responsible for someone experiencing Jesus Christ in a great way. We are truly partners in grace. Christ is counting on us and we are counting on Christ.

DeColores



Coordinator's Corner

By Lane Berry, Community Coordinator

Please continue to actively and prayerfully seek whom God may want you to approach about attending the Emmaus Walk, because - **IT'S STILL ALL UP TO US!**

Through the end of 2025, we still have availability for these Walks.

Walk 534 (W) – Sept. 11-14 15 applications

Walk 535 (W) – Sept. 25-28 8 applications

Walk 536 (M) – Oct. 16-19 26 applications

Walk 537 (W) – Nov. 6-9 4 applications

Scheduling Tip – Since we are not in a 'waiting-list' situation right now, if you know which Walk your pilgrim is interested in, please include a note or simply notate on the application the Walk they prefer to attend. It will make scheduling much easier and save money in postage as well!

Thank you!

God Bless.

DeColores!

Sponsorship Reminders

If you are sponsoring a pilgrim, here are some important reminders:

- Show up on Thursday between 6:30 and 7:00 PM.
- Do not leave until after praying over the crosses.
- Make your pilgrim's bed before you leave on Thursday.
- Candlelight worship starts at 7:45 PM on Saturday.
- Do not forget to collect agape letters.
- Closing starts at 4:45 PM Sunday.
- Do not let your pilgrim forget their agape bag in the conference room on Sunday!

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

2025-2026 Walk Schedule

533	Aug 7-10	Women
534	Sept 11-14	Women
535	Sept 25-28	Women
536	Oct 16-19	Men
537	Nov 6-9	Women
538	Feb 19-22	Women
539	Mar 5-8	Men
540	Mar 19-22	Women
541	Apr 23-26	Women
542	May 14-17	Men

Praying For You

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

Sympathy is extended to the family of **John Hardeman (183)**.

Sympathy is extended to **Charlie Bottcher (20)**, **Jane Ann NeSmith (32)**, and **Ben Bottcher (26)**, in the death of his wife and their mother, **Mary Jim Bottcher (17, LD-63)**. Extended also to sister-in-law **Lynda Bottcher (23)**.

Sympathy is extended to **Patti Gann (251)** in the death of her husband, **Jerry (341)**.

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>

Alabama Emmaus Walk 534 September 11-14, 2025

Lay Director Valrie Bain - Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Chrystal Whitehead - 4th Day
Judy Belitz - Priority
Judy Anderson
Katrina Upchurch
Louise Tapley
Liz Walker

Spiritual Director David Gray - Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Ted Anderson - Prevenient Grace
Joy Morgan - Justifying Grace
Barry Thompson - Obstacles of Grace
Abi Carlisle-Wilke - Sanctifying Grace

Music Chairperson Jesse Broadbent

Assistant Table Leaders

Lacy Dollar - Priesthood
Stephanie Jennings - Christian Action
Shawn Artley - Changing Your World
Suzanne Batchelor - Body of Christ
Brandi LaBenne - Growth Through Study
Angel Rait - Piety
Beverly Murphy - Discipleship

Table Leaders

Debra Fennell
Cathy Parker
Bernice Robinson
Denise Burford
Sallie Shipley
Mary Larson
Diane Wingfield

Board Reps

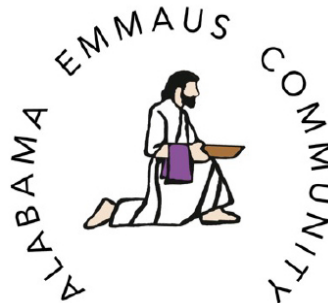
James Dodwell
Stephanie Kirby-Minix

Committees

Agape	Steve Lyles	(256) 749-7107
Meal Service	Donald Neese	(256) 596-2100
Refreshments	Zack Dollar	(229) 485-6400
Prayer Vigil	Dian Long	(256) 839-6827
Housing	Teely Samson	(256) 239-6263
Candlelight	John Ray Hardy	(256) 770-6918
Clean-up	Paul Webb	(256) 493-4712
Closing	Paul Webb	(256) 493-4712
Entertainment	Kay Davis	(256) 627-8438
Follow-up	Dian Long	(256) 839-6827
Prayer Chapel	Sylvia Cashon	(256) 435-8660
Sponsors' Hour	Kim Warren	(256) 404-2432
Worship	Linda Stanfield	(256) 225-6727
Photographer	Angie Prestridge	(256) 310-4298
Humble Servant	Chris Whitehead	(256) 487-1580

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Michele League	Albertville	Lisa Socha & David Socha
Kristy Ann Wilson	Arab	Gloria Hayes
April Alldredge	Boaz	Tashina Dunn & Belinda Samples
Lanette Thompson	Boaz	Belinda Samples & Tashina Dunn
Sherry Hammett	Cropwell	RoxAnne Henderson & Andrea Herbster
Carol McConnell	Fayetteville, TN	Beth Rosson
Shelley Bennett	Grant	Kayla Cherry & Barbara Harris
Debbie Booth	Guntersville	Pam Smith
Heather Rodriquez	Guntersville	Kelly Jones & Donna Black
Bonnie Waters	Hueytown	Ione Lowrey
Ellen Lawrence	Irondale	Anita Norton & Angela Martin
Christi O'Brien	Laurel, MS	Andrea Herbster & RoxAnne Henderson
Stephanie Stephens	Munford	RoxAnne Henderson
Brittni Jones	Pinson	Lori Hebson
Jena Smith	Talladega	Andrea Herbster & RoxAnne Henderson



**Alabama Emmaus Walk 535
September 25-28, 2025**

Lay Director Julie Martin – Perseverance

Assistant Lay Directors

Julia Young
Kris Murphy - Priority
Celia Rudolph – Fourth Day
Betty Grisham
Jean Peeden
Lucretia Woodroof

Spiritual Director Larry Hogan – Means of Grace

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Tony Latham – Prevenient Grace
Wannell Scott – Justifying Grace
Bradley Hipps – Obstacles to Grace
Greg Patrick – Sanctifying Grace

Music Chairperson Jay Sims

Assistant Table Leaders

Kylie Dunkerley – Priesthood
Kim Henry – Life of Piety
Lesli Blair – Growth Through Study
Jammie Patrick – Christian Action
Evon Zills – Discipleship
Anne Carter – Changing Our World
Mary Armstrong – Body of Christ

Table Leaders

Allison Brooks
Kaye Cole
Tina Downs
Susan Fikes
Tammy Harvey
Stephanie Hipps
Susan Maynard

Board Reps Jimmy Grisham
Pete Peeden

Committees

Agape	Rosemary Lewey	256-656-7356
Meal Service	Sanders Woodroof	256-874-0849
Refreshments	Revonda Twesme	256-762-9964
Prayer Vigil	Mitch Dobbins	256-366-6323
Housing	Scott Henry	256-777-6463
Candlelight	Tom Murphy	256-614-212
Clean-up	Frederick Martin	256-874-0957
Closing	Charles Woodroof	256-874-0277
Entertainment	Richard Martin	256-434-2218
Follow-up	Mitch Dobbins	256-366-6323
Prayer Chapel	Bob Young	256-577-2506
Sponsors' Hour	Kathy Hall	256-810-0894
Worship	Laura Moore	256-874-0959
Photographer	Jack McDaniel	256-655-6283
Humble Servant	Frederick Martin	256-874-0957

Pilgrims

Name	Location	Sponsor
Tammy Allen	Albertville	Belinda Samples & Tashina Dunn
Cassie Bruce	Albertville	Tashina Dunn & Belinda Samples
Stephanie Cook	Albertville	LaShea Hicks & Brianna Horton
Susan Johnson	Anniston	Terry Johnson & Judy Hay Anderson & Ted Anderson
Cindy Wise	Elkmont	Grayson Bailey
Natalie Harber	Guntersville	Vicky Cheek & John Cheek
Christan Bowen	Horton	Sharron Isdell & Crystal Kindred
Kaylee Saarinen	Phil Campbell	Sheilah Wiginton & Renate Lyle

