

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Volume 5 No. 2

March 2006

Community Humble Servants

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A life in piety as we serve as priests

By **KEN HANBY**
Lay Director

The Alabama Emmaus Board sends its greetings to everyone in our Community this March day of 2006. Since I last wrote we are 139 members stronger, and by the time you receive the Grapevine, we will have added approximately 100 more members.

Our churches in our communities are being strengthened through the Walk to Emmaus. The Body of Christ is needed in this world today to make disciples of all nations. Our world has so many problems today and many just throw up their hands in despair.

We are part of the Priesthood of all Believers. We seek solutions and apply them according to God's word: in our churches, in our homes, in our workplaces and wherever we are. We are God's representatives to the world, and by intercession we are people's representatives to God.

Jesus bridged the gap of sin and death that separated us from God, through Salvation. Each of us is called to be a priest, to stand in the

gap with Jesus for others who are separated from God. We are in partnership with Christ, to make Christ real to people, to be channels of God's grace and to claim the mighty acts of God.

Think back, who have been the priests in your life? A parent, an aunt or uncle, a Sunday school teacher, your pastor, a member of your church, a neighbor, a co-worker, a stranger, a shopper at Wal-Mart, or a person in prison can be a priest to you. I remember a number of friends who were priests to me even though at the time I had no clue that they were showing me the love and grace of God.

We begin with ourselves. Am I being a priest to others by my life? Do I show each person I am around each day the love and grace of God? Am I bridging the gap which is separating them from God? As we look toward tomorrow, who is God calling me to be a priest to and maybe to offer to sponsor them on their Walk to Emmaus?

To live a life as a priest we must live a life of piety, a life that is lived in a relationship with God.

(Please see Hanby Page 3)

A hug in the dark still feels warm

By **LYNN DIMON**
Spiritual Director

The first night of my Walk to Emmaus has left perhaps one of the deepest impressions on my memory of the entire weekend, as wonderful as the whole weekend was for me! I remember walking silently into the dark of my room to get ready for bed after watching the film in the chapel.

As I entered the room, I was greeted by a hug from my roommate, whom I had not met before that moment. As you know, we were committed to silence for the night, as were the other pilgrims.

We could not speak. Yet, that hug spoke volumes that I will never forget.

That hug was totally unmerited!

I didn't receive it because I had done or said anything that was especially pleasing to my roommate. Likewise, I did not receive it because I presented an attractive, well-dressed appearance that was acceptable to my roommate.

My roommate didn't know a thing about my family or educational background, so I know she didn't hug me because of that. She hugged me without seeing me, hearing my voice, or knowing anything about me just because I was a companion on the journey of faith.

I say all of this simply to say that that hug has come to be a vivid reminder of how God's

love comes to us, unconditionally!

Emmaus is a powerful tool God is using to remind us in an especially moving way that we are loved unconditionally and to empower us to go and do likewise.

As I have listened to so many persons tell of their Emmaus experience, I am reminded of the story of the Transfiguration, when Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain. There they experienced a life-changing vision.

In that story, the three disciples are dazzled as Jesus is transfigured right before their eyes and a voice from
(Please see Dimon Page 3)

Come to the party

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

The following is a favorite story of mine I would like to share with you taken from Tony Campolo's book *The Kingdom of God Is A Party*. I have used it when I have given the Fourth Day talk and I think it can truly speak to us in our future Fourth Days.

During the Civil War, the army of the Union and the army of the Confederacy were locked in a vicious battle to the death just outside the city of Richmond. As night fell after the first day of the battle, cheers were heard from the Confederate lines. When General Grant asked what was going on behind the enemy's line, he was told that the wife of General George Pickett had given birth to a baby boy, and that his troops were celebrating.

Upon receiving the news, General Grant ordered bonfires to be lit and at least to be given. Cheers and hoorahs rang out all night long. For a few hours, the shooting stopped and warring soldiers were drawn together for a birthday party. The birth of Pickett's son only temporarily stopped a war. But it stands as evidence of what a good birthday party can do.

The news is that another son was born, and there were some who stopped what they were doing and enjoyed a little bit of peace for just a little while. There was singing in the sky – at least some shepherds said there was. And some strange visitors came looking for a baby whom they nicknamed the Prince of Peace. Everyone has not gotten the message, so not everyone knows about the baby. But the baby started a movement and we know that someday everyone will come to His party and call Him the Lord of the feast.

There's a great day coming when the world will change.

(Please see Carolyn Bottom Right)

The Grapevine

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New cluster groups replace 'cluster walks'

By KEN HANBY
Lay Director/Board Chairman

The Alabama Emmaus Community has been blessed as members in the past have dedicated themselves to making Jesus alive in the lives of the pilgrims as their eyes were opened to the awesome love of God, and to the call on each pilgrim to become a disciple of Jesus wherever they were. We are somewhere about 14,000 members, spread out through mainly north Alabama in 22 Clusters. It is wonderful to have touched so many lives; however, today the big responsibility for us is to maintain the spirit, and provide the same love and service for the pilgrims to come, as has been shown in the past.

The Board has been studying and working to provide an avenue for 22 Clusters, with 17 walks a year, to be able to serve each year. Last year the Board established seven Cluster groupings, and these were established based upon geographic locations and experience within the Clusters. The design was that in each Group there would be at least one large, active and experienced Cluster to help bring along Clusters without a lot of experience and qualified persons to lead a walk.

With seven groupings, all Clusters would have involvement in two walks each year, and three Clusters would be involved in three walks during a year. We would no longer have a "Cluster walk." We must remember that all things we do are with a spirit of corporation and charity. We are starting the new group Cluster walks with Walk 303, May 11-14.

When the Community Spiritual Director talks to a potential Walk Lay Director, he or she will be advised of the Clusters involved. The Lay director for the walk will get in touch with the Cluster Lay Directors for the Clusters involved to get service sheets and lists of Cluster members. The Lay Director of each Cluster will serve a very important role in this procedure, and your spirit of love will be invaluable. It is designed so that all Clusters will be involved in walks every year. New pilgrims can work sooner and all Clusters will be able to gain experience. This was presented to the Cluster Lay Directors in January, and they were excited about the process.

It may take a little while for each Cluster to develop their membership list and service sheet record. All of us in the Community can help by providing your Cluster Lay Director with your service sheet to serve. The Cluster Groupings are:

I. Huntsville, Madison, Decatur; II. Oneonta, Gadsden, Cheaha; III. Athens, Shoals, Moulton, Cullman; IV. Franklin, Haleyville, Hamilton; V. Tuscaloosa, West Alabama, Birmingham South; VI. Marshall, Cherokee/Dekalb, Scottsboro; VII. South Shelby, East Alabama, Birmingham East.

Carolyn

(Continued from Top Left)

The lion will lie down with the lamb. Swords will be beaten into plowshares. And people will forget about war. What started as a birthday party will end with a wedding feast. We will call it the "Kingdom of God." We must pray for it, and we must work for it.

Enjoy the party!

Carolyn Phillips, Walk 63, Table of Ruth, Talladega 1st UMC

Hanby

(Continued from Page 1)

That relationship requires that our whole heart, not just part of it, be given to Him. A life in piety is one where we live in total connection with Him, where we make a relationship with God our life's priority.

Since your Walk to Emmaus, has a relationship with God been your life's priority?

Every aspect of the life of Jesus reflected His relationship with God. Our relationship with God influences all of our other relationships.

As we seek that relationship, prayer is our tool for communication to and from Him. Some of our prayer is when we talk to Him, and then through mediation, we listen. We learn His mind, heart, and will for our lives as we spend time with Him through the scriptures.

I remember when I was on my Walk

and the talk on Life in Piety. What a wrong image I had in my mind of what piety was. It was kind of a bad term that I applied to someone who thought he was better than others, one who went around with his nose in the air.

I was very confused. A person that lives a life of piety is one who gives their attention to God, one who gives their time to God, one who is honest with God and others, one who has a deep commitment to God and one who shares God's grace and love with others.

I spent most of my adult life in a life of self. I was in church and served on committees, but my heart had not been given to Him in piety.

On May 1, 1999, I gave Him my heart, and my life became a new creation. I believe that each day in prayer and medi-

tation and the scriptures we recommit to a life in piety.

Each of us in the Emmaus Community has the opportunity each day, to recommit to a life of piety as we serve our Lord in our churches.

Our Fourth Day in this world is filled with opportunity to share Jesus with unbelievers. A life of piety is one of the legs of a life in Grace. I pray that each one you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, have committed or will commit to a life in piety as we serve our Lord as priest in the body of Christ. I ask for all of your prayers for the pilgrims on the up coming walks, the teams and the Community. May God continue to richly bless you by His love and grace.

De Colores.

Ken Hanby, Walk 216, Table of John, Hargrove Memorial UMC, Tuscaloosa

Dimon

(Continued from Page 1)

heaven speaks. Their desire is to stay and bask in the glory of that moment. Yet, Jesus leads them back down the mountain into the valleys below.

They were changed for a purpose, God's purpose. They were to go back into the darkness of the valleys below, bearing the light of Christ. They were

to be the hands and feet of Christ, walking among God's people, loving unconditionally as they had been loved. I guess you could say that they were to

give hugs in the dark. And so are we!

DeColores.

Lynn Dimon, Walk 71, Table of Martha

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
301	Mar 30-Apr 2	Annette Creest	Sandra Locke-Godbey	Cullman	Vicki Parsons
302	Apr 27-30	Jerry Frame	Dallas Culver	Franklin	Lynda Bottcher
303	May 11-14	Dee Ann Creel	Amy Parsons Vaughn	Huntsville/Decatur/ Madison	Richard Blocker
304	May 15-18	Bill Prestridge	Terry Bentley	Oneonta/Gadsden/Cheaha	Mil Ivey
305	June 8-11	Susan Cosby	Carl Long		Lynda Bottcher
306	Aug 10-13	Linn Lower	Micah Hudson		Vicki Parsons
307	Sept 7-10	Kay Bissonnette	Neal Culberson		Jeanette Duke/Tim Culpepper

Men's Walk
*Mid-Week 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!

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 301
March 30-April 2, 2006**

Lay Director	Annette Creest (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	LuAnn Prickett (Priority) Connie Butler Carol Garrett Kathie Barnett Judy Bonds (Fourth Day)
Spiritual Director	Sandra Locke Godbey (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Sherril Hill (Prevenient Grace) Scott Thackerson (Justifying Grace) Dudley Brock (Sanctifying Grace) Preston Headrick (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Strickland, Jr.
Asst. Table Leaders	Teresa Montgomery (Priesthood of All Believers) Teresa Presto (Growth Through Study) Lisa McSwain (Christian Action) Donna Thackerson (Discipleship) Kathy Kilpatrick (Changing Our World) Dianne Herfurth (Body of Christ) J.J. Headrick (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Dot Sandlin Anita Kilpatrick Shirley Johnson Rita Presto Lori Bowden Sandra Sloan Kary Roberts
Board Rep.	Vicki Parsons, Richard Blocker

Committees

Agape	Byron Heaton
Meal Service	Charlie Herfurth
Refreshments	Kent Hale
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Denise Nails
Housing	Lane Berry
Candlelight	Ronnie Heaton
Clean-Up	Kevin Binkowski
Closing	Patrick Presto
Entertainment	Judy Taunton
Follow-Up	Steve McSwain
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Brenda Garrett
Sponsors' Hour	Jeanette Duke
Worship	Tim Culpepper
Photographer	John Godbey
Humble Servant	Mike Creest John Godbey

Name	City	Sponsor
Celeste Howard	Albertville	Robert Howard
Carrie White	Albertville	Gail Hiatt
Jane Oswalt	Alexandria	Gail Camp
Lisa Spencer	Ashville	Jerre/Letha Rhoades
Laura Salmon	Attalla	Evelyn Muskett
Fay Dinken	Birmingham	Sara Parker
Sally Price	Birmingham	Janet Jackson
Shirley Gibson	Birmingham	Patty Bunch
Sue Grindle	Birmingham	Betty Deese
Sidney Martin	Birmingham	Betty Deese
Carolyn Doyle	Boaz	Nelson McClure
Brandy Bailey	Columbiana	Lisa Davis
Martha Keenum	Danville	Roger Keenum
Angie Haney	Detroit	Barnsville RG
Sandra Cornelius	Douglas	Jan Fowler
Marie Smelley	Eastaboga	Jerry Smelley
Merrily Jones	Florence	J. T. Ray
Maray Langley	Florence	J. T. Ray
Georgia Osborne	Florence	Katherine Griggs
Betty DeGraaf	Gadsden	Sherri/Steve Watson
Sheila Campbell	Gardendale	Kathleen Drake
Tana Broadbent	Guntersville	Claudette DeMuth
Betty Clark	Guntersville	Ben Hulgán
Gina Chandler	Hamilton	Traci Chandler
Taylor Cox	Hoover	David Cox
Debbie Rice	Huntsville	Kerri Johnson Riley
Chris Bragg	Huntsville	Judy Wilson
Kathy Nelson	Huntsville	Kay/John Newton
Joyce Aycock	Jasper	Paula Pate
Alyson Ray	Killen	J. T. Ray
Susan Olive	Killen	Jane Eady
Liz Dye	Madison	Bobby Dye
Stacy Sell	Madison	Dawn Speegle
Lynn Hill	Moulton	JoAnne Draper
Teresa Wilson	Pinson	Sandi Tracy
Kim Burckhard	Pinson	Sharon O'Bryant
Sandra Garner	Rogersville	Jane Eady
Lilly Hudson	Rogersville	Anita Long
Ethel Mae Leggett	Rogersville	Sandra Ferguson
Judy Thompson	Rogersville	Tom Thompson
Sue Henry	Rogersville	Sandra Ferguson
Amy Jones	Sheffield	Nancy Bonfield
Kim Hudson	Springville	David Hudson
Marcella Cheek	Trinity	Eual Lamon
Lana Pennington	Trussville	Paulette Clement
Paula Marks	Tuscumbia	Leigh Anne Rutledge
Mary Lee Powers	Tuscumbia	Jo Henson
Jolanda Pate	Warrior	Kathleen Drake
Trish Palmer	Winfield	Kitty Frederick

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 302
April 27-30, 2006**

Lay Director	Jerry Frame (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	David Markham (Priority) Ken Farr (Fourth Day) Pat Seal Jamey Cosby Kelly Moore Bud Bottcher
Spiritual Director	Dallas Culver (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Chuck Worley (Prevenient Grace) Jeff Fleming (Justifying Grace) Sammy Hayes (Sanctifying Grace) Alan Beasley (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Hal Mills (Changing Our World) Hal Keeton (Christian Action) Elliott Gordon (Discipleship) Brooks Davis (Priesthood of All Believers) Johnny Hardin (Growth Through Study) Scott Godsey (Life In Piety) Mike Tutich (Body of Christ)
Table Leaders	Jerry Howell Ken Hanby, Jr. Ken Johnson Paul Huffman Clayton Suddith Joey Allen Roland Ellis
Board Rep.	Lynda Bottcher, Ponda Gordon

Committees

Agape	Sally Moore	256-356-9362
Meal Service	W.G. Cochran	205-993-4149
Refreshments	Rhonda Crutchfield	256-332-3753
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Shanna Ozbirn	256-356-2826
Housing	Judi Matthews	256-332-7099
Candlelight	Barbara Hanby	256-339-7057
Clean-Up	Angela Oliver	256-331-4877
Closing	Pat Hardin	256-332-3449
Entertainment	Jamey Cosby	256-247-1793
Follow-Up	Julia Davis	256-356-2152
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Shanna Ozbirn	256-356-2826
Sponsors' Hour	Marcus Staehling	256-332-7013
Worship	Shala Keeton	256-356-9038
Photographer	Stacy Hathcock	256-757-7438
Humble Servant	Ronnie Hellums	256-356-9006

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Name	City	Sponsor Name
Mark Gay	Albertville	Libby Gay
Rick Bush	Albertville	Cindy Bush
Chad Kison	Alexander City	Karen Kison
John T. Kociaba	Alexandria	Linda Kociaba
Byron Langdon	Aliceville	Woody Jones
Frank Graves	Arab	Larry Bennett
Reginald Baker	Birmingham	A. D. Goode, Jr.
Bob Gower	Birmingham	Butch Williams
Neil Eggers	Birmingham	Lane & Lee Berry
Beau Byrd	Birmingham	Jason Harkins
Garland Harwell	Birmingham	Scott Shurett
Daryl Dobbins	Boaz	Ann Barron
Tim Walker Boaz	Randall	Pankey/Jerry Hasting
Howard Yntema	Canton	Helen Dickinson
Nathan Smith	Columbiana	Robert Peeples
Frank Owen	Columbiana	Zeno Haselden
Sammy Hughes	Cottondale	Barbara/Ken Hanby
Phil Winningham	Crossville	Ed Brown
Tracy Hulkan	Crossville	Glenda Kilpatrick
Kevin Tillman	Cullman	Kay Parker-Phillips
Scott Dubach	Decatur	Kathy Rowe
Joe Cosby	Eastaboga	Bill Weaver
John Parcus	Eastaboga	Bill Weaver
Ralph Holt	Florence	Richard Almond
Timothy Pierce	Florence	Bobby McDuff
Donnie Armstrong	Florence	J. T. Ray
Brant Rutledge	Florence	Richard Almond
Bill Jordan	Florence	Richard Almond
Daniel Pope	Gadsden	Tinsley Gregg
Scott Chandler	Grant	Kristie Chandler
Harold Allred	Guntersville	C. H. Gordon
Bobby Gordon	Gurley	Alan Volz
Brian Bartes	Haleyville	Brant Butler
John Morrison	Harvest	John Youngs
Charlie Lovell	Hazel Green	Dan & Liz Spratt
Barney Heyward	Huntsville	Tricia Heyward
Xavier Spearman	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Pat Garner	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Bruce Peters	Huntsville	Jerry Redus
Dan Maxwell	Huntsville	John Newton
George Malone	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Glenn Cope	Huntsville	Sam Alfano
Larry Moore	Killen	J. T. Ray
David Peoples	Killen	Bill/Linda Watson
Gordon Perry	Madison	Larry Bennett
Mike Hubler	Madison	Ivy Hubler
Heath Reed	Moulton	Mary Culberson
Steve McLemore	Moulton	Carla Gillespie
Ricky Terry	Moulton	Marshall Lewey
David Tomsik	Muscle Shoals	Bud/Lynda Bottcher
Brandon Tate	Owens Cross Roads	Craig/Beth Herr
Jason Grissom	Oxford	Bill Weaver
Joey Spivey	Piedmont	Teddy Grogan
David Bryan	Pinson	Roger/Mary Hughs
Craig Morgan	Rainbow City	David McWhorter
Eric Breeden	Rainbow City	Mickey Jones
Dale Jeffreys	Red Bay	Donnie Roberts
Ken Clark	Russellville	Marcus Staehling
Rodney Cox	Russellville	Pat Seal

(Please See Pilgrims 302 Page 6)

The Grapevine

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Newsletter of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Walk to Emmaus

NOTICE: Dining before Candlelight

By **KEN HANBY**
Lay Director

If you plan to come to Candlelight and want to eat at Camp, you must register with the Walk Meal Service Chairperson. Their phone number is listed in the *Grapevine* under the team. Twenty more than the team members can eat in Hutto because of food limitations and building space (insurance).

If there are more than 20 already scheduled, and if a meal is being served in the Lodge or Retreat Center for another group, the Walk meal service person can make reservations for you. The cost for the meal is \$8.50 and is to be paid to the Walk meal service person, even if you actually eat at the Lodge or Retreat Center. Please do not just go to the Lodge or Retreat Center, get in line and eat.

During Walk 298, the Lodge had 31 extra meals eaten. Some of the extras were questioned and indicated they had come early for candlelight due to bad weather.

No one paid, said anything to meals service, or the board representative. Emmaus was charged for the meals.

If you have recently eaten at the Lodge and didn't pay the walk meal service person for your meal, please send your money to Ted Hagler at 2308 Woodcreek Drive, Birmingham, AL 35226.

Praying for You

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

Amy Matson (151) and Janie Gray (190), for the loss of their mother, Merle Majors

The family of **Tom Harris (232)**

Charlie Bottcher (20), Bud Bottcher (33) and Ann Pipes (101), for the loss of their father, E. C. Bottcher

The family of **Truett Murphy (239)**

Mary Kay Beard (17), for the loss of her husband, **Don Beard (22)**

Mike Parker and Faye Kirk (218), for the loss of their brother, Kenneth Parker

The family of **Jewell Starnes (67)**

"...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Pilgrims 302

(Continued from Page 5)

James Hartline	Scottsboro	George/Janet Hartline	Phillip Clark	Tuscaloosa	Pat Coleman
Mac Christopher	Sheffield	Thomas Watson	Danny Woodard	Warrior	Jeff/Traci Abbett
Heath Simmons	Southside	David McWhorter	Warren Wilder	Wilsonville	Fran Varin
Willie Johnson	Sylacauga	Todd Henderson	Ross Varin	Wilsonville	Fran Varin
Kevin Pennington	Trussville	Ben/Donna Sublett	Joey Harbarger	Woodstock	Susie Simmons
Matt Glover	Tuscaloosa	Robert Prince			