

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 1 No. 3

APRIL 2007

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Jesus is my all in all

By **RICHARD BLOCKER**
Lay Director

The apostle Paul makes a peculiar statement in his letter to the Galatians. He says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20) Isn't that interesting? He died yet he lives.

But that's not all.

He said Christ lives within him. No doubt most of the time we forget that, as Christians, Christ lives within us. Actually, we belong to him.

My physical body is not me. I am a spirit living in my physical body. When I became a Christian, Christ came to live with me.

That's a good thing.

It keeps me from being lonely in here. He is a pretty

good friend. We visit a lot. It helps me a great deal when I focus on Christ living within me, rather than thinking of him being somewhere else.

Someday, my body will die, but I will live on with my friend Jesus. For those who do not have Jesus living with them, there is trouble ahead. For those of us who do have Jesus living with us, there is joy ahead.

Freedom from this physical body will come, but, alas, I am still here.

There are many other benefits for me having Jesus live within but it is also beneficial for Jesus. He has control of my body and my life. I, like Paul, was crucified with Christ. I died and no longer live but Christ lives within me. I set my plans and dreams

aside to allow Christ to live his plans and dreams through me. His plans and dreams are to save a lost world.

I talk with Christ and commune with him, but he is in charge. I am just a servant. Christ tells me what he wants me to do, and I obey. Paul opened many of his letters saying he was a servant of Christ Jesus. He, too, was saying that Christ was in charge of his life.

We are in this body together, but I have died and Christ lives. It is my sincere desire that when people see me, they really see Jesus, not me. When I speak, I hope they hear Jesus, not me.

I want his words, his love, and his actions to flow from me not my words, my love, and my

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Spring is here again

By **DAVID LEE**
Spiritual Director

Well, just in case you didn't notice, I thought I would remind you. I mean, you have seen the beauty of God's creation haven't you? You have seen all the beautiful colors that He paints just for you haven't you?

Don't tell me you haven't been looking or paying any attention! Don't tell me you haven't had the time to stop and look! Don't tell me you're not interested!

Please tell me you have seen. Please tell me you are looking every single day to see what God might reveal to you next, what He might bring in to your view.

Answers to prayer are a lot like spring-time. They are there and sometimes we don't even notice. They're right in front of our eyes

and we don't even acknowledge them. How can we not help but see the beauty of this world and also see the answers to our prayers?

I guess it's because we're not looking, or paying attention, or perhaps we don't believe that He can.

Let me be the one to help you remember. YES, God answers prayer. Look at me! Look at you! Look at His creation! Look at what He's done in your life since your Emmaus Walk. Just look would you!

He's still answering our prayers and if you will take a few moments today to reflect, I believe you will find many answers to your prayers. I certainly have!

Love in Christ,

**David Lee Alabama Emmaus Community
Spiritual Director Walk #31 Table of Paul**

Who will come?

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

When applications are received, each pilgrim is assigned to a walk.

If an acknowledgment is requested, it is answered. Approximately two months before the scheduled date, the invitations are mailed.

The pilgrim and sponsor have a month to acknowledge the invitation.

If no acknowledgement is received, the pilgrim is removed from that walk and placed in an inactive status. A letter is mailed to the sponsor notifying them to contact the office to reschedule their pilgrim.

Sponsors please read your sponsor's letter and have your pilgrim reply as soon as possible.

There are up to 70 pilgrims invited, with 49 or less accepting their invitations, normally. If the number accepting drops below 49, then other pilgrims are invited to fill the vacancies if time permits.

Invitations are cut off one week before the walk.

I have always said communication is so important. You can contact me by snail mail, fax, email or telephone.

The office hours are 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Monday - Thursday. If I am unable to take your call, please leave a message, and I will call back as soon as possible.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning your pilgrim.

De Colores,

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

The Grapevine

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The Grapevine is published six times a year by the Board of the Alabama Emmaus Community. Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 1016 Sedgefield Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35150, or emailed to DHall92727@aol.com. Send news items to Greg Spoon, 910 Co Rd 174, Piedmont, AL 36272 or email news to spoonfam@bellsouth.net.

Don't discount the importance of Chrysalis

By COURTNEY HADEN

There's a curious tendency for a few in the Emmaus Community to discount the importance of Chrysalis weekends. "It's just kids," they might say, or, "They don't take the event seriously."

Well, if you've had the opportunity to get involved in a Chrysalis weekend, you've seen these notions rather elegantly disproved. The participants may be young people, but they're not just kids. The Chrysalis weekend is necessarily designed to accommodate the schedules and inclinations of college-age young adults, but that doesn't diminish the intentions of those who undertake it or those who work to bring it about. As the Emmaus weekend focuses on developing leaders for the church, Chrysalis concentrates on reinforcing the faith of future leaders at a time in their lives when it can be sorely tested.

It's not hard for a child to be strong in spirit while living at home as part of a church community. Away from home in a college environment usually more secular than spiritual, it's much easier to drift off. Chrysalis offers young people the chance to share experiences from mentors and with each other in the unique camaraderie of the three-day weekend.

Almost as importantly, Chrysalis gives *you* a chance to get involved right away. Though you might have to wait a while for a chance to work an Emmaus weekend, there's always a place for willing workers on a Chrysalis team. What's more, there's definitely room for more Caterpillars. Perhaps the only thing more gratifying than sponsoring a friend for Emmaus is sponsoring a young person for Chrysalis. August is the month to mark on your calendars. At Camp Sumatanga, there'll be a journey for guys Aug. 2-5 and one for girls Aug. 18-21. You can get more information at www.alabamayac.com, and we hope you will, because in the words of the *Who's* Pete Townshend -- no John Esley, but still a pretty fair songwriter -- "The kids are all right!"

Community to celebrate 25

The Alabama Emmaus Community is blessed to be celebrating its 25th Anniversary during 2007. The Community began in 1982 with Walk #1, May 13-16, 1982. George Scott was the Lay Director and Bill Miles was the Spiritual Director. Through March of 2007, the Community has conducted 317 walks. To celebrate this milestone, we are going to have a special 25th Anniversary Training Event Aug. 17-18.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and consider being at the Training Event. We plan to recognize the Lay Directors for the Walks over the 25 years. A special shirt for the 25th Anniversary will be available, and we plan on having a special Saturday evening outdoor meal by the lake. A memorial service will be held for those in our Community that have gone to be with the Lord since August of 2006. The training classes will be held on Saturday as usual. Details of the training event, the schedule and a registration form will be provided in the next *Grapevine*. Room availability will be limited, and we will be assigning rooms on a first come, first served basis. I look forward to seeing you in August. De Colores!

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

This is a challenge to the community

By **RICHARD BLOCKER**
Lay Director

I feel very strongly about being exposed to God's Word every day. Scripture teaches us about God and teaches us truth. It is a way God talks to us and gives us answers to our prayers.

Quantity of reading Scripture is not as important as frequency. A daily exposure is very important. It doesn't have to be much, just one chapter a day. That's about ten minutes of reading. And, don't read it to prove

"Scripture teaches us about God and teaches us the truth."

what you believe. Read it to determine what you should believe.

Read asking, "Who is God and what does he want with me?"

Prayer is another ingredient of the Christian life that cannot be overlooked. Prayer is our communication with God. It is a

way of validating that we believe in God and that he is who he says he is. Prayer is vital to the Christian life.

You can no more be a Christian without prayer than you can be alive without breathing.

I have a special request of the community. I ask you, the members of the Alabama Emmaus Community, to join me for the remainder of 2007 in reading a chapter a day in your Bible and praying each day for someone else.

May God bless you for your dedication to reading Scripture and intercessory prayer.

De Colores!

Richard Blocker, Alabama Walk 180, Table of Luke, Asbury UMC, Madison

Blocker

(Continued from Page 1)

actions. The world needs to see him, not me. I have nothing to offer; Jesus has everything to offer. Just as Jesus lived to do the Father's will, I want to live to do Jesus' will.

If it is Jesus and not I who lives, then something else happens. Whenever someone says something to me, they are saying it to Jesus. Whenever someone does some-

thing to me, they are doing it to Jesus. If the things that are said or done are unpleasant, I should not get upset. I should not allow anger to build up within me, for it is no longer my life. Those things are said and done to Jesus and vengeance is the Lord's.

It doesn't matter what happens to me in this part of my life because my home

is in heaven. My life is lived through Jesus and that life is for eternity. As my brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that you, too, focus on Christ who lives within you. He is our All in All. His is a wonderful and peaceful friendship, and it lasts forever!

De Colores!

Richard Boocker, Alabama Walk 180, Table of Luke, Asbury UMC, Madison

Upcoming Walks					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
320	May 10-13	Sandra Brasher	Amy Parsons Vaughn	Tuscaloosa/W. Ala/ B'ham South	Ken Hanby, Sr./ Mary Cashion
321	May 17-20	Butch Elrod	Terry Bentley	Marshall/Scottsboro/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Jim Bissonnette
322	June 7-10	Kelley Largin	Bill Brunson	S. Shelby/E. Ala/B'ham East	Bud Vann
323	Aug 16-19	Pat Seal	Alan Beasley	Franklin/Hamilton/ Haleyville	Ponda Gordon
324	Sept 6-9	Tom Caudle	Mac Buttram	Madison/Cullman/ Huntsville	Dick Titus
325	Sept 13-16	Terri Russell	Barry Hallman	Oneonta/Gadsden/ Cheaha	Ken Hanby, Sr.
326	Oct 11-14	Beth Burden	Sandra Locke Godbey	Athens/Shoals/ Moulton/Decatur	John Schuessler
Men's Walk *Mid-Week Walk		Reminder: Candlelight service begins at 7:45; Closing begins at 4:45. Please remember that children are <i>not</i> to be present in Hutto or at meals during a walk!			

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 321
May 17-20, 2007**

Lay Director	Butch Elrod (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Ron Ivey (Priority) Bob Rogers (Fourth Day) Charlie Ayers Rocky Harnen Mark McCurdy (Body of Christ) J.W. Myrick
Spiritual Director	Terry Bentley (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Bill Gandy (Prevenient Grace) Keith Davis (Justifying Grace) Kipp McClurg (Sanctifying Grace) Lloyd Gibbs (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bill Treutel
Asst. Table Leaders	Mickey Jones (Priesthood) George Hartline (Study) Chris Bussing (Discipleship) Charles Wright (Changing Our World) David McWhorter (Life In Piety) Chad Steed (Christian Action) Bobby Johnson
Table Leaders	Ted Crawford Cecil Culbreth Tim Culpepper James Dorsett Paul Meigs Derrick Steed Billy Tillery
Board Rep.	Jim Bissonnette

Committees

Agape	Pam Myrick	256-927-5751
Meal Service	Beverly Culbreth	256-638-3813
Refreshments	Mil Ivey	256-845-7902
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Bertie Ledbetter	256-927-4074
Housing	Diane Bentley	256-413-0868
Candlelight	Ross Wilkerson	256-927-4059
Clean-Up	Beverly Elrod	256-845-3845
Closing	Stephanie McClurg	256-638-6589
Entertainment	TBA	
Follow-Up	Barbara Tillery	256-523-3157
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Roy/Cathy Williams	256-442-8191
Sponsors' Hour	Bertie Ledbetter	
Worship	Missy Bissonnette	859-760-6106
Photographer	TBA	
Humble Servant	Beverly Elrod	

Name	City	Sponsor
Kerry Rich	Albertville	John & Ginger Adkins
Jeff Boone	Alexander City	Louise Tapley
John Lowry	Anniston	Stephen Terrell
Jim McClary	Athens	Fred Martin
Dexter McFarlin	Birmingham	God's Humble Servants RG (Mike Hodges)
Chuck Burkhardt	Birmingham	Bruce Barze
David Thompson	Birmingham	David Thompson, Sr.
Cary Cooper	Birmingham	Andy Sink
Peanut Kilpatrick	Boaz	Glenda Kilpatrick
Joel Kavanaugh	Brent	Bill Brown
Charles Smith	Cropwell	Robert Rhodes
David Collier	Florence	Monday Morning Live (Bill Jordan)
Charles Milligan	Florence	J. T. Ray
Mark Brown	Florence	J. T. Ray
Kin Taylor	Florence	Brant Rutledge
Greg Letson	Florence	J. T. Ray
Deebo Mitchell	Florence	J R Goad & Linda Persall
Mark Custer	Florence	J. T. Ray
Jim Frazier	Gardendale	Ron Barber
Austin Mann	Guntersville	Paul Meigs
Steve Elliott	Haleyville	Jerry Jackson
Jerry Albright	Haleyville	Jerry Cagle
Wade Griffith	Homewood	Lisa Elliott & Laura Eanes
Jim Green	Huntsville	Keith Rogers
David Shaw	Huntsville	Bruce Parris
David Watson	Huntsville	Terry Wingo
Vann Bragg	Huntsville	Chris Bragg
Jim Brown	Huntsville	Kathie Barnett
Mark Hedden	Huntsville	Keith Rogers
Rock Wilson	Huntsville	Wanda & Reek Wilson
Ed Sims	Irondale	Karen Earhart
Lee Butler	Killen	Jamey & Susan Cosby
Thomas Olive	Killen	Joe Ferguson
Roy Bryant	Lexington	Phillip Springer
Chad Houze	Lincoln	Harvey Beck
Karl Wurstner	Madison	Jill Wurstner
T. J. Mays	Millport	Nan House
Jimmy Adams	Northport	Ken Hanby, Jr.
Phil Smith	Northport	Tim Clements
Shannon Skinner	Northport	Tim Clements
Ty Ashe	Notasulga	Diann Cruickshank
Joe Miller	Pell City	Ronnie & Teresa Harris
Sidney Goss	Piedmont	Christa Neyman, Bob/Rhonda DeHaven
Billy Crews	Pinson	Barry Hallman
Jerry Garner	Rogersville	Joe Ferguson
Johnny Henry	Rogersville	Sue Henry & Bill Watson
Cecil Hudson	Rogersville	Lilly Hudson & Jamey Cosby
Ronnie Littrell	Rogersville	Jamey Cosby & Frankie Patterson
Doug Clement	Russellville	Pat Seal & Jamey Cosby
Bill Jenkins	Sheffield	Mary Lee & Duncan Powers
Tim Demorse	Sheffield	David Donaldson /Fred Mason
Terry Dempsey	Spruce Pine	Marcus Staehling
Andy Fennell	Sterrett	Rodger & Debra Fennell
Steve Copeland	Tuscaloosa	Tim Clements

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**Alabama Emmaus Walk 322
June 7-10, 2007**

Lay Director	Kelly Largin (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Paulette Clements (Priority) Amy Floyd (Fourth Day) Dolores Bunn Betty Hamilton Lyn Cosby Iris Bates
Spiritual Director	Bill Brunson (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Lelsie Etheridge (Prevenient Grace) Amelia Sims (Justifying Grace) Emily Freeman-Pennfield (Sanctifying Grace) Mat Smith (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Patricia Tate
Asst. Table Leaders	Tena Hilario (Changing Our World) Kay Jordan (Christian Action) Mycha Odom (Discipleship) Dian Long (Priesthood) Kristy Akin (Life In Piety) Pam Bowden (Body of Christ) Carol Rayfield (Study)
Table Leaders	Debbie Alexander Michelle Brunson Betty Harvey Kathleen Drake Patrice Booth Linda Riddle Doris Booker
Board Rep.	Bud Vann

Committees

Agape	Pam/Neil Branham 205-681-1872
Meal Service	Thurman Robertson 205-853-7484
Refreshments	Denise Cone 205-836-2610
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Beverly Murphy 256-245-0475
Housing	Teresa/Ron Harris 205-525-4850
Candlelight	Gene Rayfield 205-640-3131
Clean-Up	Tommy Stuart 205-613-1905
Closing	Julia Rudd 205-681-5341
Entertainment	Joan Matlock 205-681-6090
Follow-Up	TBD
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Betty Jackson 205-879-6064
Sponsors' Hour	Anita Norton 205-815-0423
Worship	Becky Wilson 205-467-9115
Photographer	Hal Yeager 205-854-1222
Humble Servant	Neil Odom 205-853-5517

Name	City	Sponsor
Gina Clary	Akron	Laura Ruth Bracey
Stacey Bissonnette	Albertville	Jim & Kay Bissonnette
Renae Rucker	Albertville	Marty Kilpatrick
Kerry Quinn	Albertville	Rebecca Killebrew
Adrienne Pope	Albertville	Connie Kennamer
Sandra Spilman	Anniston	Angel Rait, Michelle Rait & Laura Reaves
Deborah Hunter	Anniston	Jack Causey
Julie Puckett	Anniston	Angel Rait, Michelle Rait & Laura Reaves
Margaret Kesler	Arab	Barbara Traylor
Susan Jones	Arab	Nancy Barker
Robin Martin	Arab	Melanie & Daril Pettit
Carol Poupore	Arley	John & Gail Briscoe
Beth Ogles	Ashland	Phil & Mary Cornelison
Kate Webb	Athens	Shaun Webb
Phenie Killham	Belgreen	Kathy Britton
Janet O'Neil	Birmingham	Bob Williams, Jr.
Lisa Busby	Birmingham	Peggy Harrison
Leslie McClendon	Boaz	Diana & Jim Mobley
Angie VanAlphen	Boaz	Suzanne Decker
Lori Varnedoe	Chelsea	Ernie & Pat Ramos
Michele Walker	Columbiana	Emmaus Friends of CUMC, Shawn Lipscomb
Kristi May	Cullman	Michael May and Mickey & Kay Phillips
Rebecca Branch	Cullman	Celia Caudle
Bonnie Wilhite	Cullman	Wanda Hodge
Lesa Hawkins	Cullman	Allen Hawkins
Gretchen Gentry	Dahlonega	Ivy Hubler
Denise Blackburn	Florence	Linda Persall
Dottie Finch	Gadsden	Kary Roberts
Shelley Hodo	Gardendale	Bill Arnold
Judy Clontz	Glencoe	Hugh & Judie Beggs
Lee Ann Stewart	Glencoe	Hugh & Judie Beggs
Melinda Murphree	Grant	Judy & David Davis
Valarie Walker	Guin	Michael Shotts
LaRonda Seymore	Haleyville	Gloria Davis
Rebecca Morrison	Harvest	Deborah Youngs
Marsi Franklin	Hoover	Tina Nelson, Vanessa Lowe
Bobbie Smith	Huntsville	Lillian Eddleman
Robertta Shivers	Huntsville	Sue Seward
Eva Patterson	Huntsville	Judy Beaver
Monica Bell	Huntsville	Melissa Rogers
Teresa Godbey	Jackson	Sandra Locke Godbey
Susan Springer	Lexington	Phillip Springer
Carol Law	Logan	Connie Butler, Denise Nails
Beth Hollingsworth	Madison	Geni Clark
Alison Levson	Madison	Marsha Blocker
Twanda Overton	Marion	Leslie Etheredge
Susan Dierberger	McDonough	Sidne Martin
Tinia Tubbs	Moundville	Henry Moore
Angie Gardner	Northport	Shirley Bourgeois
Barbara Norris	Northport	Connie Spiller, Alice Cox
Stepahnie Scott	Oneonta	Grace Malek
Debra Guyton	Oneonta	Grace Malek
Dresden Tuggle	Oxford	Bill & Glenda Prestridge
Laura Goatley	Pelham	Peggy Harrison

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

Pilgrims 321

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Sam Matherson	Tuscaloosa	Tim Clements/Tommy Raburn
Bill McCook	Tuscaloosa	Jeff Hannah
Alan Head	Tuscaloosa	Ken Hanby, Sr.
Jeff Harless	Tuscaloosa	Trey Noland
Matt Hartley	Tuscaloosa	Tim Clements
Cooper Shattuck	Tuscaloosa	Brad Almond
Steve Finch	Tuscumbia	Amy Jon Finch
Spence Taylor	Vestavia Hills	Bruce Barze
Jody Farris	Vina	Sheri Farris, Shanna Ozbirn

Pilgrims 322

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Wendie Chafin	Pinson	Nancy Stephens
Sharon Hanson	Pinson	Raymond Hanson
Marissia Seals	Sewanee	Sharon Owen, Susan Cosby
Jennifer Kimbrough	Sheffield	Stephanie Lawler
Nancy Ruggles	Sheffield	Shelia Holway
Polly Leisure	Springville	Paulette Clements
Kristi Dempsey	Spruce Pine	Suzanna Staehling
Cheryl Barnett	Sylacauga	David Hall
Kaye Spears	Talladega	Dianne & Larry Scott
Martha Wasserburger	Tanner	Lillian Eddleman
Nancy Adcock	Trussville	Paulette Clements
Cathy Wood	Tuscaloosa	Bob Wood
Cindy Harding	Tuscaloosa	Connie Spiller, Alice Cox
April Bennett	Tuscaloosa	Betsy Hass
Angie Conner	Tuscaloosa	Debra Walker, Ken Hanby, Sr.
Bonnie Day	Wellington	Bill & Nancy Parker
Jessie Lancaster	Woodland	Bill & Glenda Prestridge

Praying for You

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

The family of **Francis Collins (131)**

Faye Crumpton (LW 18), for the loss of her husband and **Leah Collins (169)**, for the loss of her father, Weymon Crumpton.

Geri Beers (Walk 163), for the loss of her mother, Virginia Brown.

Dale Cohen (103:E), for the loss of his father, Lee Cohen.

The family of **Shirley Hood (120)**.

Ginger Trawick (23), for the loss of her mother, Frances Bryant.

Marcia Keller (198), for the loss of her mother, Mary **Bennight (84)**.

Pat Brasher (48) and **Christy Rogers (64)**, for the loss of their father, **Solon Cook (82)**.

Tonya Hanby (269), for the loss of her father, Johnny McDaniel.

Chuck Cramer (31) for the loss of his wife, Judy Cramer.

Bill Creel (153), for the loss of his mother, Mary Will Burton.

Jimmy Gardiner (165), for the loss of his brother, William Gardiner.