

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 7 No. 6

December 2009

Community Humble Servants

Judy Gilliland
Lay Director

Bob Murray
Spiritual Director

Buddy Berry
Bud Bottcher
Sandra Brasher
Michele Cash
Mary Cashion
Joey Croft
Roger Crowson
Amy Floyd
Bill Prestridge
John Schuessler
Sheilah Wiginton
Harry Wyckoff, Jr.
Board Representatives

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

Ted Hagler
Treasurer

Kim Anderson
Literature

Neil Odom
Supplies

Kelly & Sally Moore
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

An interesting, rewarding year

By **JUDY GILLILAND**
Lay Director

This morning the sun is lovely and warm. Beds are made up, chores done; uneventful is the password of the day as I sit in my chair by the window, and think back on my year as Emmaus Community Lay Director. I realize this has been an absolutely interesting and rewarding year! I can hardly believe how fast the time has flown by.

I remember hearing the old people say, "Time flies when you're having fun," and my heart is full of gratitude to the Lord as I say "thanks for the memories"—for the fun times, as well as in the challenging times because those have drawn me closer to Him, and I can say without any doubt that my God is faithful. I have received so many of His awesome, amazing blessings poured out in my life this year. "...Worship the Lord with gladness; ...give thanks to him and praise his name..." (Psalm 100)

As I sit here and ponder "What is Emmaus?" one of my Grandfathers who has lived in Heaven for many years comes to mind. Although he had never heard of Emmaus, he was the perfect role model of what Emmaus servant hood is all about. My Popo Jim was just a simple

farmer who plowed his land with his slow, plodding old mule. Jim—a quiet, gentle, humble servant of the Lord went about trying to do good all of his days on this earth, and it became a much better place because he had been here.

My husband Hershel is another one of those role models—a kind, gentle, compassionate, loving servant of the Lord who has brought love and laughter and music into my life as well as that of many others; my precious sister and friend Mary Cashion, another loving, kind Emmaus role model servant, who has also been one of God's awesome, amazing blessings of encouragement and support to me this year.

Just a few names in God's great army of anonymous servant saints who help to build the kingdom of God; and there are so many others of you in our Alabama Emmaus family—Pilgrims on this same Fourth Day journey with me that I've met from all across our beautiful State and beyond, who just go about serving and giving, being the hands and feet and heart of Christ extended to others, and that's what Emmaus is!

God is the Master of taking ordinary people and doing extraordinary things with their lives. In the gospels we read about two groups of people: the first group was the curious—"Who is this (Please See Gilliland Page 2)

Problems and solutions

By **BOB MURRAY**
Spiritual Director

Almost everything about this time of year flies in the face of the Emmaus mantra, "Don't anticipate." This is and always has been the very season of anticipation! Isaiah talked about it this way: Isaiah 9:2 "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has

shined."

The Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent is always one of the end time scenarios (Luke 21:25-36, Mark 13:24-37 or Matthew 24:36-44), which starts us thinking about that time when Jesus will come again. When we read words like anguish, perplexity, terror and apprehension, words that Jesus used to describe this time, we are prone to experience some anxiety.

For the past two thousand years, every generation of Christians has in some way believed that the end was near. History shows that many folks have taken extreme measures in anticipation of Christ's return. Some have sold or given away all their possessions because if Jesus was coming soon, they would have no use for those "things." Others have quit (Please See Murray Page 3)

Show us a sign?

By **CAROLYN PHILLIPS**
Community Coordinator

In this time of so much turmoil in the world, I sometimes get really down with myself and others. Then I read of God in all of his greatness and look around at all the small things and realize that God has not left me, and we are not alone.

Just when I think greed is the rule of the day, I hear of a man who finds a man's wallet which contained over \$3,000.00 and does not stop until he returns it.

This is a sign from God that there are good people.

I hear of children needing school supplies and someone brings a church together to meet the needs of those children.

This is a sign from God that there are good people.

During this month we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord. His pending birth was announced to his mother, Mary, by an angel from God.

The angel appeared to the shepherds and announced his birth telling them of "the great joy to all people for unto you today is born the Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you. You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

The wise men were given the star which went before them to guide them to the baby.

We still have signs today and someday the turmoil will be over. One day the lion will lie down with the lamb. Swords will be beaten into plowshares.

This is something we are promised by God.

May you have a safe and blessed Christmas!
Continue to look for the signs!

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

The Grapevine

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A circle of friends

By **PAULETTE CLEMENTS**

Young Adult Chrysalis

It all started with three or four young ladies on Saturday night during the examination of conscience, as they sat on the floor at the front of Hutto in a small circle. Within a few minutes another had joined them and then

another; as one of the clergy approached the circle it opened once again and within minutes everyone was in the "circle of friends." We all sat there for the next few minutes enjoying and soaking in the closeness that comes only from being in God's presence. Then someone asked
(Please See Circle Page 3)

Gilliland

(Continued from Page 1)

man?" they asked. The second group were the disciples—ordinary men and women who put their trust in Christ and decided to follow Him.

Every day they had to make that choice, because every day is a gift all by itself! And that's how I'm privileged to see many of you, my Emmaus brothers and sisters—ordinary people, young and older, making the choice to follow Christ and being a role model for those who follow behind us.

We the people, the body of Christ, the church, are an intentional witness team and as we pull together, especially in our Emmaus Community, we **can** make a difference to the world that is watching us; and we can do that because the church is something alive and it's life-giving. "For it is God who is at work within us, giving us the will and the power to achieve his purpose." (Phil. 2:13)

So let me encourage you to continue on, to be one who takes Jesus' light of hope into a darkened world and to your close relationships around you in your home, your church, your job and your community. Into this darkness, light comes in the form of words of hope spoken by Jeremiah as he turns his thoughts from his circumstances to the character of God: "...I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (3:21-23, NIV).

His voice calls out to someone just like you and me, who's not afraid to be a beacon in the night to a world that's lost its way. What will matter a hundred years from now is the legacy of your life that you pass on to others. Only one life. It will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those Board members whose terms are ending this year: Mary Cashion, Joey Croft, Bill Prestridge and John Schuessler. They each have provided excellent Godly leadership and have been a tremendous blessing to our Community.

Please pray for Sandra Brasher as she begins her year as Community Lay Director, effective January 1, 2010, along with four new Board members: John McQueen, Sally Moore, Philip Reich and George Scroggin, Jr., and also Jackie Mize who is our new Community Agape Chairperson.

I pray that you and your family will have a Jesus-filled Christmas and a blessed, happy and prosperous New Year!

DeColores!

Judy Gilliland, Walk #133, Table of Mary, CrossPoint Community Church, Gadsden

Murray

(Continued From Page 1)

their jobs and have gathered with like-minded persons on hilltops waiting for Jesus to descend.

For many folks the tumultuous economic collapse of the past year has seemed to be a sure “sign” that something is going on.

When I heard a pilgrim share at a recent Emmaus Walk closing that for the past year it seemed to them that the whole world was mad all the time, I was forced to reflect on some encounters I have had with other folks during this time and I had to confess that I have had a “short fuse” when things weren’t going just my way. So often I have been the problem rather than the solution.

As I grieved over my sin, I was reminded of one of my favorite songs, one that is appropriate anytime, but is even more fitting during this season, “Let there be Peace on Earth.”

The words go like this:

Let there be peace on earth and

let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be! With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.

With ev’ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow; To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

The next morning God gave me this prayer from the Upper Room Daily Reflection:

O LORD, SOMETIMES I say things before I think. In my frustration, words tumble out, and I wish I could take them back. Today I cry out in private prayer.

Help me control my tongue. Old age gives no license for prejudice or self righteous pride. Forgive me when I am puffed up in arrogance, thinking I’ve earned the right to be sharp and severe.

When my words are harsh or

hurtful, convict my critical spirit. Replace gossip or sarcasm with words that soothe and build up. Put kindness on my lips and sensitivity in my heart for every neighbor, caregiver, employee, and family member. I want to be a pleasure to be around, even if others are not. Let my tongue be an instrument to bring you glory. Amen.

Missy Buchanan

Living with Purpose in a Worn-Out Body

May the peace, power and joy of Christ be with you.

Bob Murray, Alabama Emmaus Walk 112, Table of Matthew

Circle

(Continued From Page 2)

if they could share. That first story began a series of stories of hurt, pain, and regret that were hard to share, yet these young ladies knew they were safe in this circle of friends—no judgment, just mercy. After the stories

(Please See Circle Page 6)

Upcoming Walks					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
363	Jan. 21-24	Ruth Ann Clay	Andy Wolfe	B’ham East/B’ham South/South Shelby	Amy Floyd
364	Feb. 18-21	Milton Powell	Carl Long	Shoals/Moulton	Michele Cash
365	March 4-7	Mark Dearen	Mac Buttram	Franklin, Hamilton, Haleyville	Bud Bottcher
366	April 8-11	Pam Myrick	Carl Long	Gadsden, Cherokee/Dekalb, Marshall	Buddy Berry
367	April 22-25	Ralph Jones	John Tanner	Huntsville, Madison	Roger Crowson
<p>*Men’s 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!</p>					

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 363
January 21-24, 2010**

Lay Director	Ruth Ann Clay (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Lisa Elliott (Priority) Shawn Lipscomb(Fourth Day) Charlotte Anderson Pam Bowden Julie English Dana Lower
Spiritual Director	Andy Wolfe (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dean Bowers (Prevenient Grace) Mark Weldon (Justifying Grace) Abi Carlisle Wilke (Sanctifying Grace) Suzanne Pruitt(Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Charlie Beavers
Asst. Table Leaders	Angela Jones (Priesthood) Julia Rudd (Study) Giners Parsons (Discipleship) Suzanne Trammell (Changing Our World) Danielle Butler (Life In Piety) Donna Burgess (Christian Action) Pam Townsend (Body of Christ)
Table Leaders	Rhonda Stack Paulette Clements Sally Price Roxann Edsell Lynn Carmichael Diana McQueen Alisha McDonald
Board Rep.	Amy Floyd

Committees

Agape:	Larry Sherrer	205-870-1797
Meal Service:	Chuck Ferguson	205-491-1634
Refreshments:	Kristi Akin	205-669-7770
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Jane Hagler	205-985-9608
Housing:	John McQueen	205-988-3051
Candlelight:	Bill Arnold	205-871-1770
Clean-up:	Eddy Bonner	205-937-2081
Closing:	Cindy Burrage	205-329-8740
Entertainment:	Mr. G. Scroggins	256-927-3090
Follow-up:	Teresa Harris	205-525-4850
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Mark Elliott	205-985-4051
Sponsors' Hour:	Johnny Jordan	205-648-2546
Worship:	Neil Branham	205-837-2705
Photographer:	Bill Rush	205-290-0092
Humble Servant:	Ted Hagler	205-985-9608

Name	City	Sponsor
Patsy Johnson	Albertville	Mary Lou McKee
Misty Brogdon	Albertville	Connie Kennamer
Sherry Lusk	Albertville	Arlene Southerland
Tara Snider	Albertville	Amy Kelley
Stephanie Harrison	Anderson	Mary Trimm
Danielle Davis	Anderson	Deanna Anderson
Malinda Weaver	Ashland	Sonrise RG (Mary Cornelison)
Chris Hamilton	Athens	Angela McKenzie
Virginia Stephens	Belmont	Karla Huffman & Sally Moore
Christy Heath	Birmingham	Bill Arnold
Jeanne Baswell	Birmingham	Laura Eanes
Rhonda Braddock	Birmingham	Patty Crauswell
Cindy Negron	Bremen	Linda Guthrie & Stephanie Wright
Helen Gibson	Columbiana	Jo Ellen Greene
Tammy Calvert	Crane Hill	Linda Guthrie & Stephanie Wright
Seana Alexander	Cropwell	Teresa Harris
Sandra Peppers	Cullman	Dan Carter
Jacqueline Schlangen	Decatur	Barbara Kirby
Debra Teague	Dora	Sara Manney
Janet Whiteside	Florence	Karran Goode
Susan Adams	Florence	Sheila Pierce
Amy Matthews	Florence	Wannell Scott & Vivian Gallegos
Libby Glasscock	Florence	Ann Lyndon
Delana Blake	Florence	Cynthia White
Cherri Sutherland	Florence	Wannell Scott
Denise Cooley	Fulton	Kristi Babb
Jane Skipper	Gadsden	Karen Owen
Jamie Robertson	Gadsden	Leigh Johnson
Lynn Shirley	Gordo	Kacie Davis
Kimberly Franks	Guin	Corrine Franks
LaDonna Williams	Guntersville	Ken Williams
Martha Vandergriff	Guntersville	Jeannie Lyle & Janice Hulgan
Heather Chandler	Hamilton	Kristi Babb
Kay Sanders	Heflin	Sam & Tammy Hayes
Jan Carter	Holly Pond	Dan Carter
Julie Mizerany	Homewood	Bill Arnold
Judy Richards	Hoover	Joe Richards
Karon Walls	Hoover	Eric Jones
Christina Louise Gibson	Horton	Cathy Sanders
Annette Birchfield	Huntsville	Melissa Tepool & Stacy Hedden
Ava Caldwell	Huntsville	Marsha Owen
Ashley Mitchell	Huntsville	Chris Bragg
Brandi Oliver	Killen	Sheila Pierce
Doris Stevenson	Madison	Jack & Kerry Lawrence /Paul Hillard
Levece Martin	Madison	Jack & Kerry Lawrence/ Paul Hillard
Jane Goodman	Moulton	Carla Crosslin
Pam Coan	Moulton	Melanie Little, Jean Crawford & Debe Dutton
Cristal Melton	New Site	Paul & Judi Vick
Sarah Conger	Northport	Paul & Margaret Conger
Tonya Roddam	Odenville	Lisa Stewart
Wanda Williams	Oneonta	LaShawn Scholl
Lori McKoy	Oneonta	Betty Smith
Lynne Bangert	Owens Cross Rds	Julee Couch
Megan Krieger	Rogersville	Jodi Traffansted
Melanie Huguley	Sheffield	Zeke Haselden

(Please See Pilgrims 363 Page 6)

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 364
February 18-21, 2010**

Lay Director	Milton Powell (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Gordon Burden (Priority) Don Shelton (Fourth Day) Bud Bottcher Hal Mills Donnie Armstrong Jim Maynard
Spiritual Director	Carl Long (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dudley Brock (Prevenient Grace) Neil Culberson (Justifying Grace) Randy Burbank (Sanctifying Grace) Steve Reding (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Teddy Owens (Study) Mark Custer (Discipleship) Steve White (Changing Our World) Cecil Cain (Life In Piety) Eual Lamon (Christian Action) George Lair (Body of Christ) Lyle Bickley (Priesthood)
Table Leaders	Bobby Whitlock Eddie Phillips Jim McClary Tom Glenn Charles Crosslin Sam Barnett Billy Hudson
Board Rep.	Michele Cash

Committees

Agape	Kay Seale	256-974-3109
Meal Service	Rosemary Lewey	256-974-1522
Refreshments	Lynn Littrell	256-974-9513
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Linda Smith	256-974-9243
Housing	Bill Jordan	256-767-7161
Candlelight	Terry Goins	256-767-4405
Clean-Up	Ott Sanderson	256-974-0311
Closing	Annette Sanderson	256-974-0311
Entertainment	Beth Wilcoxson	256-386-7013
Follow-Up	Judy McKelvey	256-381-6886
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Peggy Lamon	256-355-1255
Sponsors' Hour	Mark Helfin	256-974-9087
Worship	Betty Belue	256-38-8123
Photographer	Mitchell Stevens	256-766-3675
Humble Servant	Martha Powell	256-350-2335

Name	City	Sponsor
Aaron Johnson	Acworth	David & Shirley Chupp
Phillip Gilliland	Albertville	Joey Gilliland
Josh Brogdon	Albertville	Connie Kennamer
Ty King	Arab	Matt Arnold
Luther Walker	Arab	Allen Walker
Chris Waddell	Attalla	Calvin & Peggy Lindsay
Danny Harris	Bay Minette	Todd Mitchell & Rocky Frazier
Jeremy Hanson	Birmingham	Jerre Rhoades
Gary Wallace	Birmingham	Alison Wheeler
Tommy Harper	Boaz	Rocky Frazier, Sr.
Nathan Burns	Boaz	Ann Seay/ The Mt. Vernon E's
Mike Mahan	Brierfield	Bill & LaShawn Scholl
Andy Gill	Calera	Chuck Terrell
Jim Thorn	Calera	LaShawn & Bill Scholl
Ralph Waldrep	Cherokee	Kendrick Burns
Steve Strickland	Coker	Kenny & Angeline Burns
Rick Ruston	Columbiana	Ricky Ruston
Allan Lowe	Columbiana	Rick Pearson
Shane Cruse	Columbus	Jaime Rickert
Steve Hollis	Cullman	Eric Jones
Rex Harrison	Double Springs	Ben & Mary Cashion
Richard Gooch	Florence	Mike Creecy
Jerry Kell	Guin	Jerry Gann
James Bodine	Guntersville	Kenneth Sanders
Terry Allen	Guntersville	Twyla Allen
Warren Jones III	Guntersville	Ashley & Chris Herbert
Zach Seitz	Gurley	William Brunson
Todd Barton	Haleyville	Ben Cashion
Tim Perkins	Heflin	Lance Turner
Scott Laney	Homewood	Ben James
Steve Mizerany	Homewood	Bill Arnold
Bob Bailey	Huntsville	Chris Comer
Joe Dombrowski	Huntsville	Roger Crowson
Fred Bush	Jacksonville	Ted Anderson
Robbie Godwin	Laurel	Linda Godwin
Bryan Howell	Mt. Olive	Mark Barber & Ron McBride
Walt Melton	New Site	Paul & Judi Vick
Kevin Lynn	Northport	Dan Robertson
Tom Harris	Northport	Robert & Rebecca Sandel
Bill Wood	Oxford	Diane Wood
John Grabowski	Pinson	Ronald Camp
Dennis Upchurch	Russellville	Sheila Upchurch
Waylon Huguley	Sheffield	Zeke Haselden
John Rich	Springville	John Smith
Bernie Scott	Trussville	David Dorsey
Keith Alderson	Trussville	Rick & Joyce Simonson
Mark Scogin	Tuscaloosa	Robert & Rebecca Sandel
Rob Davis	Tuscaloosa	Katie Wallace-Davis
Joe Powell	Tuscaloosa	Tyler Mitchell
Doug Click	Tuscumbia	Laura & Barry Smallwood
Rob Nelson	Tuscumbia	Randy & Lisa Waldrep
Richard Eller	Walnut Grove	John & Kary Roberts

The Grapevine

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

Pilgrims 363 (Continued from Page 4)

Name	City	Sponsor
Britney Hightower	Sheffield	Wannell Scott Revonda Twesme
Vicki Stanford	Springville	Robert Hollowell
Trenia Collins	Sylacauga	Stacy Septer & Chuck Terrell
Melissa Brown	Trinity	Beth Burden
Rhonda Henderson	Trussville	Sonya Hendricks
Kylee Grimes	Trussville	Dianne Olszak
Elizabeth Wallace	Tuscaloosa	Tonya Hanby
Jo Lewis	Tuscaloosa	Joy Willett & Ken Hanby, Jr.
Leanne Holifield	Tuscaloosa	Betsy & Paul Hass
Haley Smith	Vestavia Hills	Laura Eanes
Nancy Wells	Vestavia Hills	Gayle Byrne

Circle (Continued From Page 3)

ended, some scripture and encouraging words were shared telling of God's forgiveness, no matter what the past is.

A clergy, new to Chrysalis, asked if this happens at every Chrysalis. My answer was: "I have worked on many Chrysalis teams and I have never seen this before." I would say the "circle of friends" was the highlight of YAC #65. As I have replayed that evening over and over in my mind, it occurs to me that no handbook, no three-day schedule, and no careful human planning could have ever led to those precious moments. It was the presence of the Holy Spirit that brought this to be. "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord" (Zech 4:16).

Paulette Clements, #65

Praying for You

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

Vicki Martin (79), for the loss of her mother, **Ruth McCullough (101)** and to **Melissa and Andrea Martin (YACs)**, for the loss of their grandmother.

Alys Wilson for the loss of her father, Ralph Bailey.

Pam Shurett (187), for the loss of her father, John Vines.

Wilma Sasser (202), for the loss of her husband, **Doug Sasser (205)** and to **Karen Harrell Korb (221)**, for the loss of her father.

Marilyn Curry (294), for the loss of her husband, **Tommy Curry (229)**.

Steve Dearwent (22), for the loss of his wife, **Sue Dearwent (21)**.

Bill (153) and **Bea (161) Bowen**, for the loss of their son, Bob Bowen.