

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 8 No. 1

February 2010

Community Humble Servants

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Lay Director

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Spiritual Director

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Community Coordinator

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“Be still” and hear his voice

By **SANDREA BRASHER**
Lay Director

We are starting a new decade. What does 2010 and the new decade hold for us? We all have our plans and dreams for the future, but we don't know what the future really holds. There is one that knows our future. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

In 2009 we saw family and friends lose their jobs, and sometimes their homes. Camp Sumatanga went from almost closing, to the Camp debt being paid. We saw life begin and life end; we experienced both joy and sadness.

Sometimes after Christmas it is a little sad for me. The year was almost over and I thought about what plans God had for me that I missed, during the year, because I was too busy to “Be Still” and hear his voice. A few years ago, God gave me a scripture for a certain time in my life: Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God.”

Now again this year, this is the scripture He has for me. My family and friends know that I talk fast, walk fast, eat fast and drive fast. *Still* is not a word I've known a lot about. But, it has become a word I love when I am alone with my Father. Just to sit quietly in His presence and be still long enough to know that He is with me.

As this New Year begins, I feel He is saying to our Community “Be Still. Listen to what I am saying and just feel my presence.” May the beginning of this New Year be slow and purposeful, as if you're catching your breath. Gather your strength and take the opportunity to reconnect with God.

My favorite part of my original Emmaus Walk was the Benedictine silence on Thursday night. Just to be quiet before Him and ready myself for what He had prepared for me those next 72 hours. This was such a special time.

How can we know His plan for our lives if we don't take the time to “Be Still” and listen? When we communicate with someone,

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Whatever, forever and forever

By **BOB GUNN**
Spiritual Director

Paul said a mouthful in his second letter to Timothy. I don't think that I ever was willing to go that far. But just to read it is to be pushed beyond what would have been. In his second letter to his son-in-the-faith, this still on-fire Christian makes this startling confession of his faith (II Timothy 4:5-6): “Be careful in everything, endure afflictions you are dealt, do faithfully always the work of spreading the Good News, and let your life be the proof of

your faith and ministry.” And then Paul makes that incredible claim of his faith in Jesus Christ: “I am already being poured out as a drink offering.”

Paul probably didn't have too many people with whom he can be so totally honest. “Timothy, I want to be radically faithful to Jesus Christ with every ounce of energy I can exert.”

Surely the process he went through from the time of his conversion to the moment he penned this powerful affirmation to Timothy can be called sanctification. (Familiar with that term?)

He was not the same man who was headed for Damascus and met the Lord and was radically changed in dramatic fashion. His life from that point on was one of allowing the Holy Spirit to change him and change him and change him.

The apostle felt deep within his soul that what he had done and was about to do, just might “cook his goose.” For him, at this juncture in his life it was “put up or shut up.” Perhaps he could

(Please See Gunn Page 2)

Go for it!

“Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” -
Mathew 8:26

In the month of January, I lost a very dear friend who often used the words “go for it.” Her name was Virginia, but her friends called her “V-A.” She was a wonderful Christian lady, very deep in her faith, who taught me a lot about life. My hope for 2010 is to remember her words.

David recently recommended a Max Lucado book, *Fearless*, which I am reading now. In it, Lucado talks about the fears we have in our lives that enslave us.

Fears that create doubt in our lives and cause us to lose control, fears that take away our happiness. We can fill each day with fears just watching the TV.

With the state of our economy, our health, wars and rumors of war, security for our families and many others we are inundated with fear every day. What we must remember is that there will always be problems in our lives, but Christ is always with us.

Henry Ward Beecher wrote, “Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past.”

I pray that in 2010 I have fewer fears in my life and remember V-A’s words.

“Go For It!”

De Colores!

Carolyn

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Brasher

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we can’t do all the talking, and so it is with our Heavenly Father. We can’t do all the talking; we must stop and listen to Him.

This year let us take God’s plan and love into the world where we work and play and live together - loving people regardless of our differences, forgiving quickly and without reservation, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, being thankful for the day at hand.

My devotional for New Year’s Day had a wish by the late Dr. Lew Smedes that he sent to his friends many years ago. I want to share his wish and for this New Year and decade. I wish this for you and your family.

“We want you to be blessed with joys deeper than any sadness, gratitude happier than any regrets, hopes higher than the shadows of any discouragement, and the vitality to make of every day what God on Christmas Day made for all days.”

I pray joy, gratitude, hope and vitality for every day of this New Year.

Blessings to you and your family.

**Sandra Brasher , Walk 211, Table of Dorcus,
Hargrove Memorial UMC**

Gunn

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have shut it all down and walked away, leaving behind this message of the resurrected Christ. (I rather believe that Jesus faced that same reality-check there in the Garden of Gethsemane. He might well have just walked over that nearby hill away from Jerusalem and disappeared into that vast desert. (You know the decision of both men.)

Another translation reads, “I am ready to be offered.” Oswald Chambers suggests that this is a transaction of the will, not of the sentiment. He is so bold as to advise: “Tell God you are ready to be offered; then let the consequences be what they may.”

A young man came to Jordan Grooms’ study some years ago. He needed help from this most compassionate pastor.

“Preacher,” he said, “I want to say my whatever to Jesus.”

Both men went into the sanctuary and stood in the pulpit. This young guy picked up the pulpit Bible, lifted it high above his head, and danced around the platform. Then, repeatedly spoke to God: “O Lord, whatever, forever and forever!! Whatever! Whatever, forever!”

I wish I could sing through my pencil right now. Here’s what you would hear (written by Mary Brown): “It may not be on the mountain’s height, or ever the stormy sea; It may not be at the battle’s front My Lord will have need of me; But if by a still, small voice He calls To paths I do not know, I’ll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine, I’ll go where you want me to go. I’ll go where you want me to go, dear Lord, O’er mountain or plain or sea; I’ll say what you want me to say, dear Lord, I’ll be what you want me to be.”

So let it be written, so let it be done — in me — in you — in all of us!

God has a plan for us all Chrysalis touches lives through gentle nudge

BY ADAM STANDIFER
Chrysalis Journey 55

Both of my parents were part of the Emmaus Community, and I knew some of the things that they had experienced on their walks. Needless to say, I was not interested in joining my parent's new circle of friends.

However, my sponsors who go to my church gave me an application for a Chrysalis Journey and told me to pray about it. I did by posting it on the corkboard in my room waiting for God to give me direction.

Somehow, I had nothing to do one night and started filling out my application. Once I had everything filled out, I figured I might as well go. My young adult Chrysalis (YAC) was scheduled for the first weekend in August, 2007, which was one week after my first experience working at Sumatanga's Summer Camping Program.

After working a week with the kids at camp, I could not have been more thrilled

to go spend another weekend at Camp Sumatanga. Until then, I thought Camp was a place where you served the Lord. The last thing I was expecting was for other people to be serving me!

When my parents had dropped me off on Friday morning, I was really nervous. However, I found out that two of my summer camp friends were working my Journey.

This made my stay a lot easier and made me more comfortable with the whole situation.

During my journey, I realized that God had a plan for me and that I need not worry because everything happens for a reason. This spoke to me on many levels.

I decided that I would try to spend my life serving others and spreading all that I learned on my Journey.

Since I started my flight with Christ, I have worked two more summers at Camp Sumatanga and have worked as a small group leader at two Behold youth retreats.

I see these young people who I hope to influence make lifelong decisions for Christ and it lets me know that I am in the right place at the right time. Even back at home, I am hoping to make a difference.

I have started working with the elementary children at my local church. I am now the Children's Coordinator and work weekly with children that mean a lot to me.

Also since my flight, I have worked on the team of other Emmaus Walks. For one, I found that my parent's new circle of friends that I mentioned before could also become my circle of friends.

Second, I found that there are many similarities but also many differences in an Emmaus Walk and a Chrysalis Flight. Even though I have worked a couple of times on a Walk, I still am excited to experience the Emmaus conference room for myself.

I know that it will be in His time and not mine. Even though I know that He will put me in a Walk when I need it most.

I am getting a large dose of reality in the virtue of patience.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
364	Feb. 18-21	Milton Powell	Carl Long	Shoals/Moulton/ Decatur/Athens	Michele Cash
365	Mar. 4-7	Mark Dearen	Mac Buttram	Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton	Bud Bottcher
366	Apr. 8-11	Pam Myrick	Carl Long	Gadsden/Cherokee- DeKalb/Marshall	Buddy Berry
367	Apr. 22-25	Ralph Jones	John Tanner	Huntsville/Madison	Roger Crowson
368	May 6-9	Cecilia Hammond	Mark Adams	Tuscaloosa/W. Alabama	Judy Gilliland
369	May 20-23	Judy Bonds	Mac Buttram	Cullman/Oneonta	Michele Cash
370	Jun. 10-13	Glenda Prestridge	David Holmes	Cheaha/East Alabama	Harry Wycoff

***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!

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 365
March 4-7, 2010**

Lay Director	Mark Dearen (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Leo Burnett (Priority) Ben Cashion (Fourth Day) Paul Huffinan Roger Karr Hal Keeton Tony Mize
Spiritual Director	Mac Buttram (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Howard Johnson (Prevenient Grace) Tim Alexander (Justifying Grace) W.G. Henry (Sanctifying Grace) Jeff Fleming (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Sheilah Wiginton
Asst. Table Leaders	Larry Norris (Priesthood) Charlie McAfee (Study) Doug Clement (Discipleship) Chris Rich (Changing Our World) Donald Jones (Life In Piety) Wally Haney (Christian Action) Sandy Sandlin (Body of Christ)
Table Leaders	Ronald Crumpton Johnny Hardin David McNutt Kevin Posey Buddy Perdue Scott Shipman Alan Wilson
Board Rep.	Bud Bottcher

Committees

Agape:	Dana Fleming	205-921-7969
Meal Service:	Vickie Johnson	205-921-4091
Refreshments:	Tonya Haney	205-921-9498
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Belinda McRae	205-487-9008
Housing:	Linda Rich	205-921-7055
Candlelight:	Gloria Sandlin	205-921-4379
Clean-up:	TBA	
Closing:	Roland Ellis	205-921-9748
Entertainment:	Sheila Jones	205-921-1808
Follow-up:	Beth Riggs	205-921-3098
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Debbie Dearen	205-921-2349
Sponsors' Hour:	Jim Gregg	205-412-8975
Worship:	Vickie Sanderson	205-921-3384
Photographer:	Mike Shotts	205-921-7614
Humble Servant:	Mike Shotts	

Name	City	Sponsor
Andrew Todd	Albertville	Chris & Whitney Bouldin
Dameon Pittenger	Arab	Trent Compton & Erin Pittenger
Jay Sims	Athens	Jenny Sims & Jan Hargrove
John David Chambliss	Athens	Ashley Chambliss/ Jan Hargrove
Landon Lyle	Birmingham	Shane Vandergriff & Jeannie Lyle
Brian Stevens	Boaz	Rickey Holland
Andy Gill	Calera	Chuck Terrell
Steve Strickland	Coker	Kenny & Angeline Burns
Shane Cruse	Columbus	Jaime Rickert
Scott Knepper	Cropwell	Ronnie Harris
Rex Harrison	Double Springs	Ben & Mary Cashion
Todd Nix	Florence	Darrell Higgins
Marty Hinton	Florence	Tony & Susan Shirley and Keith Collier
Troy Hill	Gardendale	Wesley Liveoak
Warren Jones III	Guntersville	Ashley & Chris Herbert
Gary Gray	Guntersville	Richard Baker & Rocky Frazier
Dave Griffin	Hampton Cove	Katherine & Robert Fugate
Bob Kynerd	Homewood	Bill Arnold
Jimmy Mitchell	Lincoln	Neal Goza
Mark Craig	Mount Hope	Philip Reich & Cecil Caine
Tom Harris	Northport	Robert & Rebecca Sandel
Kevin Lynn	Northport	Dan Robertson
Jim Hoven	Northport	Paul Bourgeois & Larry White
Brian Hass	Northport	Paul Bourgeois
"Speedy" Carter	Odenville	Jeff Lyles
Casey Joe Lambert	Piedmont	GUMC Emmaus RG (Rhonda DeHaven)
Jody Potter	Pinson	Neal Lacy
Eric Work	Pinson	Warren Hodges
Jeff Downs	Rogersville	Jamey Cosby & Tom Thompson
Jimbo Schilling	Springville	Rick & Joyce Simonson
Tim Teague	Sylacauga	Byron Lee White
Mark Brown	Trinity	Eual Lamon
Chris Jackson	Trussville	Laci Jackson & Dianna Smith
Bob Peters	Trussville	Sid Clements
Chris Conn	Trussville	Richard Coggins/Rick Simonson
Keith Alderson	Trussville	Rick & Joyce Simonson
Ash Camp	Trussville	Rick Simonson
Rob Nelson	Tuscumbia	Randy & Lisa Waldrep

Alabama Emmaus Walk 366
April 8-11, 2010

Lay Director	Pam Myrick (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Penny Maddox (Priority) Missy Bissonnette(Fourth Day) Paula Davis Alice Edwards Roslyn England Janet Hartline
Spiritual Director	Carl Long (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Deborah Moon (Prevenient Grace) Mark Mayo (Justifying Grace) Keith Davis (Sanctifying Grace) Mark Bissonnette(Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Patricia Tate
Asst. Table Leaders	Sandra Lowe(Study) Trish Harnen (Priesthood) Martha Herston (Discipleship) Pat Wright (Changing Our World) Deborah Naugher (Life In Piety) Connie Hannah (Christian Action) Paula Wright (Body of Christ)
Table Leaders	Judie Beggs Lisa Cronan Brook Dutton Heather Epperson Teresa Lett Barbara Meigs Ann Seay
Board Rep.	Buddy Berry

Committees

Agape	Brent Maddox	256-558-3558
Meal Service	George Hartline	256-630-5433
Refreshments	Linda McCurdy	256-632-2004
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Susan Sewell	256-526-7335
Housing	Beverly Elrod	256-845-8345
Candlelight	Rocky Harnen	256-728-8035
Clean-Up	Jay Myrick	256-927-5751
Closing	Terrell England	256-891-0034
Entertainment	Mr. "G" Scroggin	256-927-3090
Follow-Up	Sandra Davis	256-927-5297
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Anita Long	256-891-8546
Sponsors' Hour	Keith Monk	256-582-3116
Worship	Tim Culpepper	731-415-0059
Photographer	Terry Haynes	256-526-8111
Humble Servant	Jay Myrick	

Name	City	Sponsor
Kay Whitman	Albertville	Myra Rollings
Jennifer Cunningham	Albertville	Lacey Johnson/Rebecca Young
Valerie Hubbard	Albertville	Pamela Frazier/Paige Cranford
Sherry Lusk	Albertville	Arlene Southerland/Joe Lusk
Emily Socha	Albertville	David Socha
Audria White	Altoona	Andrew Gamblin
Amy Copeland	Anniston	David Copeland
Vanessa Lewis	Arab	Larry & Regina Gregory
Jill Varney	Birmingham	Ruth Brooks
Lesia London	Birmingham	LaShawn & Bill Scholl
LeAnn Sherer	Birmingham	Martha Hosey
Allison Tapscott	Birmingham	Jill Smith, Doris Booker & Jenna Tapscott
Lynne Shell	Boaz	Pamela Frazier/Paige Cranford
Cyndi Brewer	Boaz	Jeff & Michelle Davis
Kathy Thrasher	Boaz	Amy Kelley
Linda Mahan	Brierfield	LaShawn & Bill Scholl
Kier Vickery	Brilliant	Misty Miller & Carrie Bolton
Carolyn Bentley	Columbus	Beverly & Jaime Rickert
Robin Scott	Crossville	Cathy Sanders
Kathryn Roberts	Decatur	Jim McClary
Beth Grey	Fayette	Dana Gilliam, Joyce Prater & Dana Hollingsworth
Heather Gibbs	Fayette	Dana Hollingsworth
Bobby Jo McClure	Fayette	Dana Gilliam, Joyce Prater & Dana Hollingsworth
Stephanie Mallette	Florence	Emily Taylor
Deborah Burnside	Florence	Beth Toner
Lucretia Hinton	Florence	Tony & Susan Shirley
Leslie Howard	Florence	Moms RG (Emily Taylor)
Kristi Niedergeses	Florence	Rod & Cindy Schlosser
Janet Whiteside	Florence	Karran Goode
Angie Baines	Gordo	Rene' Jones
Heather Jones	Guntersville	Ashley & Chris Herbert
Rhonda Gwin	Guntersville	Stephney Gregg
Ashley Hancock	Guntersville	Lisa Baker
Rhonda Crane	Hamilton	New Wine RG (J.J. & Preston Headrick)
Tena Taylor	Hamilton	Carrie Bolton & Misty Miller
Joy McCracken	Hamilton	Matthew McCracken
Judy Richards	Hoover	Joe Richards
Lisa Murray	Horton	David Socha
Carol Blevins	Huntsville	Leone Purser
Ginger Liles	Huntsville	Courtney Bailey
LeAnn Herrin	Huntsville	Chad Steed
Dawn Dement	Millport	Barbara McManus
Angela Terry	Moulton	Cecil Caine & Lynn Littrell
Janice Nelson	North Lauderdale	Elise Brasseale
Sheri Boyington	Northport	Brooke Freeman, Suzanne Gibson & Candi Pate
Krista Champion	Northport	Brooke Freeman, Suzanne Gibson & Candi Pate
Jo Scarbrough	Northport	Brooke Freeman, Suzanne Gibson & Candi Pate
Sheila Harris	Northport	Bob & Becky Sandel
Sue Brewer	Oneonta	Chris Elsen
Lori McKoy	Oneonta	Betty Smith
Debbie Hurst	Owens Cross Rds.	Mack Head
Amy Thomas	Owens Cross Rds.	Ken & Jackie Albrecht
Cathy Russell	Oxford	Tony Datuin
Susan Winters	Oxford	Tony Datuin
Diane Partain	Pinson	Cathy Dixon
Debbie Abercrombie	Pinson	Beth Bolton/Sonya Hendricks
Meredith Allgood	Ralph	Paul & Beth Hass
Jenny Holman	Ralph	Brooke Freeman, Suzanne Gibson & Candi Pate

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The Grapevine

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

Murray resigns; Gunn called

With much prayer and following God's direction, Brother Bob Murray has resigned as Spiritual Director of the Alabama Emmaus Community. Please join the Alabama Emmaus Board in thanking him for his service to our Community and wishing him and his family God's blessings. He will continue to serve on future Walks, and we look forward to serving with him again.

The Alabama Emmaus Board is pleased to announce that Brother Bob Gunn has accepted the call to become the Community Spiritual Director. We are very fortunate to have a man of Brother Gunn's spiritual insight as our Spiritual Director and look forward to his leadership this year. He has been involved in Emmaus for a number of years and will bring that experience to this new position on the Board. Please pray for him and each member of the Alabama Emmaus Board that we would be guided by Godly wisdom and discernment on all the decisions we make this year.

The Alabama Emmaus Board

Pilgrims 366

(Continued from Page 5)

Name	City	Sponsor
Linda White	Remlap	Rhonda Stack/Sandi Tracy
Jo Nell Wilson	Russellville	Alan & Denise Wilson
Leigh Chamblee	Springville	Doris Booker, Dianne Adkins, Voncille Anger & Jill Smith
Traci Britton	Spruce Pine	Kathy & Eddie Britton
Mary Ann Motley	Spruce Pine	Suzanna & Marcus Staehling
Ann Alderson	Trussville	Rick & Joyce Simonson
Kim McCracken	Trussville	Cathy Dorsey
Melissa Tuten	Tuscaloosa	Danielle Eppes
Lauren Stroud	Tuscumbia	Alan & Denise Wilson
Melanie Click	Tuscumbia	Laura & Barry Smallwood
Vanissa Eller	Walnut Grove	John & Kary Roberts

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 **Jean Burns (256)**

Sidney White (191), for the loss of his mother.

Helen White (9), for the loss of her mother,
Irene Franklin.

Cyndi Witherington (278), for the loss of her
mother, Becky Smith.

Susan Feezor (8), for the loss of her mother,
Lucille S. Miller.

The family of **Matt Miller (314)**.

The family of **Bob Guerry (129)**.