

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 9 No. 1

February 2011

Community Humble Servants

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Spiritual Director

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Happy New Year, Emmaus

By **AMY FLOYD**
Lay Director

The gifts have been opened, the stockings have been emptied, the food has been eaten, the trimmings and trees have been taken down and put away, the parties have been attended, the ball has dropped, we have kissed at midnight, and now here we are in 2011.

As with each new year, we sit back and stare blankly ahead as we wonder what just happened. How did the last year come and go so quickly? Where did the time go? What did I accomplish this year?

And then we look ahead and plan for another fast-moving year. We generally write down those plans as new year's resolutions: I'm going to spend more time with my family; I'm going to lose 20 pounds; I'm going to exercise more; I'm going to save more money; I'm going to read my Bible more. And the list goes on and on. Sound familiar?

Right now we have the new year and its hopes and resolutions on our minds, but what else is new for us? For most of us, Emmaus is an important part of our Christian walk. So I thought about this year and Emmaus.

As Emmaus members we have all experienced

that fresh feeling of experiencing God's love anew. As we attend Candlelight, Closing, cluster meetings, and reunion groups, we again have the opportunity to share and rekindle these feelings like they were new. As Christians we are also reminded that in Christ we are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17).

As since 1982, we will continue to have walks this year. For some, one of these walks will be a new opportunity for service. For those who have served before, one of these walks may offer a chance to work in a new position or on a new committee.

Through team formation, new friends will be made. As walks progress, we have new songs to sing, new best friends to meet, and a new Thursday night video (yea!!!).

A big change for the Emmaus community is the new way Board members are selected and walk teams are chosen. A new Board member has been selected by each of the eight cluster groupings, giving us eight new Board members this year. New experiences, new challenges, new friends and new service are ahead for these eight people.

Working with their new Cluster Grouping Team Selection Committee, future walk Lay Directors have a new and improved way of bringing a

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Barnabas exemplifies 'hero'

By **MARK PARRIS**
Spiritual Director

I love reading about and preaching about Biblical characters. The stories of real people in scripture carry with them hope for us because we see how God helped them.

Some people, such as Samson or King Saul, carry with them negative examples that we can learn from without having to make their mistakes.

Today, I want to lift up the life of Barnabas, a giant of a Christian, but not that well

known. If you want a New Testament hero, Barnabas' story is not a bad place to begin your search.

Now, Barnabas was only the nickname the apostles gave him. His true name was Joseph, and he was a Levite from Cyprus. A person with red hair may be called Red, a left-handed person may be called Lefty, and some of us short people occasionally get called Shorty.

But, this man was just naturally called Barnabas, which means "Son of Encouragement."

I think when I grow up I'd like to earn a nickname like that!

One quality in Barnabas that quickly surfaces is GENEROSITY.

In that beautiful account of the first days after Pentecost, the believers shared with one another and said, "What's mine is yours." This Son of Encouragement sold a parcel of land and came to the apostles and gave the entire sum to them.

The interesting thing is

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Challenges for the new year

We start every New Year with resolutions. Either we want to start something new and productive, or put an end to some bad habit or practice. At our church we are challenging the entire congregation to participate in a study designed to read the entire Bible in 90 days, ending at Easter.

Well, this has started me getting up at 5:00 AM each day to read, which makes a great start to the day. Also, we have accountability groups that will meet weekly to encourage each other and stop each other from giving up. I am excited about doing this and look forward to the feeling that will come at Easter.

The project reminds me of two Emmaus activities: our reunion groups, where we hold each other accountable for our spiritual pursuits, and sponsorship, which requires much accountability in caring for our pilgrims. From the completion of their application, through preparation and attendance at the Walk, caring for their family during the Walk and connecting them to the local cluster and a reunion group after the walk. Sponsorship is a serious responsibility, and we must commit ourselves to personal accountability before ever inviting a candidate to go on the Walk. Your reunion group can be a great help with that accountability.

If you have started or stopped something in your new year, I pray it goes well for you. I ask if you are sponsoring a pilgrim this year, please take your responsibilities seriously. There have been some changes made, and I hope these changes will make us more aware of our responsibilities as sponsors. If you are sponsoring a pilgrim, go over the application with them.

Be sure they answer the questions and that you complete the sponsor's portion of the invitation. When you receive the sponsor's letter please read it carefully. It, too, has some changes and you need to be aware of them. You also need to be sure your pilgrim confirms their invitation by the date stated on their invitation. Otherwise, they will be removed. Attend the services at Camp for your pilgrim. Be sure and take them to the follow up in their cluster and most importantly get them involved in a reunion group. This keeps their Emmaus experience going and growing.

Start and stop? What do you plan to do?

De Colores.

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

The Grapevine

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Floyd

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team together. Collaborating with members from all involved clusters, Lay Directors will be better informed about whom to ask to be on a team.

As I sit here thinking about the new year, I am reminded that each day is God's gift to us and each day offers us something new to experience and enjoy. How will we live out each day? How can we honor God with each new day?

For some Emmaus members, both seasoned and new, service in the local church may be a new opportunity or a new challenge. There may be new avenues of service that need to be tried. Maybe our hands are the willing hands God can use. Maybe we could resolve to serve in the church, on a team or wherever with a new spirit of cooperation and charity. Maybe we could resolve to love our neighbor more, show God's love more, or simply resolve to be in His presence more. A new year is ahead for us. What will we make of it?

By the time you are reading this, many have already forgotten their resolutions. Some are working hard to keep them. Some never made any at all. One I would like for everyone to make and keep is to give our prayers and support to this Emmaus Community and its clusters and leaders. With that support, I know this Community can have a happy and prosperous whole year!

DeColores.

Amy Floyd, Alabama Emmaus Walk #17, Table of Ruth, Wilson Chapel UMC, Birmingham.

Why do I need to go to candlelight?

By AMY FLOYD

Lay Director

I am sure many of us have asked the question before: Why do I need to go to Candlelight?

I have to admit I have. There will be so many there that they won't miss me. It will be late when I get home. It is cold or hot or raining or snowing (!) outside, and I want to stay in my comfy chair at home. I don't know any of the pilgrims. There are all kinds of excuses. But what if we all used those excuses? Who would be there?

I have to keep in mind that someone unknown to me came out to hold that little candle and sing so I could have that awesome experience. Could I not do the same?

Can we not all do the same? The pilgrims have a blessing with each face they see, whether the face is familiar or not. And what a blessing we with the candles get! The music, the joy and tears on the pilgrims' faces, the time of prayer and communion.

Every *Grapevine* has a list of the upcoming walks. Cut it out, post it on the refrigerator door, and make a point to attend candlelight. It is truly a blessing for you and the pilgrims. Why do I need to go to candlelight?

I'm sure I saw God there, too.

Parris

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that he didn't even ask that a little brass plaque be placed in a prominent place to honor his gift!

He gave the money so it could be used as they saw fit. It has been said, "The world has yet to see what can be accomplished if no one cared who got the credit." Ananias and Sapphira followed part of Barnabas' example, right up to the "selfless" aspect. They lied about the amount their land was sold for and paid dearly as a result. (See Acts 5.)

A second quality that we see in Barnabas is that he was a PEACEMAKER AND FRIEND.

There was a young convert to "The Way" named Saul of Tarsus. He made his way to Jerusalem to connect with the home group of the emerging faith in Jesus Christ. The apostles and other Jerusalem Christians were afraid of Saul.

They looked at Saul like a calf looks at a new gate, all big eyed and fearful. It could have become much worse for Saul had not Barnabas stepped up and become his advocate. Barnabas tells the apostles how God had spoken to Saul en route to Damascus, and how Saul soon began preaching fearlessly in Jesus' name there.

As a result, the home office finally accepted that Saul was a changed man and one of them, now.

Perhaps Barnabas is best known as a MISSIONARY.

He and his new friend Saul/Paul soon make an outstanding ministry team. The Lord worked miracles through them and the audience in Lystra mistook them for two of the Roman gods.

Try as we may to do our best, my preacher colleagues and I

have never been mistaken for gods! The closest I have ever come to that was during a particularly long sermon I heard someone utter, "Oh, God."

Later on Paul and Barnabas come to a parting of ways over a fellow missionary who had left them and gone home. Paul declared John Mark to be a quitter and unreliable and refused to take him with them.

Barnabas saw something new in his formerly reluctant nephew and insisted that they take him. The result? The disagreement caused these two great preachers to form two teams, opening up two missionary endeavors instead of one.

Later, Paul came to value John Mark in the ministry, so we say, "Thank you Barnabas, you Son of Encouragement!"

Barnabas was certainly a WISE LEADER, as well. On a return visit to the Antioch church he helps them to get organized for ministry with the prayerful ordination of elders there.

Our hero was even elected as A DELEGATE TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE of the church.

That is as close an analogy as comes to mind at the moment, but he truly was a delegate to the Jerusalem Council. He took a strong stand on a justice issue for the Gentile believers, and General Conference voted concurrence with him.

Yes, Barnabas is my kind of person and hero. It wasn't all about Barnabas. For him, it was all about Jesus.

Grace and Peace!

Mark Parris, Community Spiritual Director

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
380	Feb. 10-13	Ronnie Stone	Bob Murray	Shoals/Moulton/Decatur/ Athens	Philip Reich
381	Feb. 17-20	Patricia Farr	Dallas Culver	Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton	Sally Moore
383	Mar. 31-Apr. 3	Judy Panucci	Jim Stringfellow	Huntsville/Madison	Roger Crowson/ Bill Smith
384	Apr. 7-10	Ronnie Brasher	Mark Adams	Tuscaloosa/ W. Ala	Sandrea Brasher
385	May 12-15	Jane Sims	David Lee	Cullman/Oneonta	George Scroggin/ Dianne Herfurth
386	May 26-29	Arthur Young	Bobby Green	Cheaha/East Alabama	Carolyn Phillips
387	June 9-12	Denise Cone	Ron Shultz	B'ham E/B'ham S/ South Shelby	John McQueen/ Rick Pearson

*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 383
March 31-April 3, 2011**

Lay Director	Judy Panucci (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Andrea Jones (Priority) Jackie Alrecht (Fourth Day) Sandra Jones Dottie Nelson Kathy Neyman Lisa Holmes
Spiritual Director	Jim Stringfellow (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Traci Loveman (Prevenient Grace) Lynn Dimon (Justifying Grace) Sandra Locke-Godbey (Sanctifying Grace) Byron White (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Spike McRoy
Asst. Table Leaders	Melodee Ray (Priesthood) Joyce Smith (Study) Renee Rowse (Discipleship) Melissa Rogers (Changing Our World) Cindy Marsh (Christian Action) Stacy Hedden (Body of Christ) Leanne Kavanagh (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Beth Marshall Amy Key Amy Boyle Rica McRoy Wanda Wilson Teresa Parker Helen White
Board Rep.	Roger Crowson

Committees

Agape:	John Newton	256-536-8925
Meal Service:	Doris Wilson	256-656-5817
Refreshments:	Chris Bragg	256-880-0102
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Debbie Sullivan	256-489-4544
Housing:	Fred Anderson	256-852-2515
Candlelight:	Ann Turner	256-859-1254
Clean-up:	Tom Panucci	256-536-9191
Closing:	Brenda Titus	256-534-0936
Entertainment:	Tom Panucci	256-536-9191
Follow-up:	Dee Ann Creel	256-881-7563
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Judy White	256-837-1666
Sponsors' Hour:	Sue Glover	256-536-3087
Worship:	Sherry Johnson	256-213-9730
Photographer:	Steve Neyman	256-859-1284
Humble Servant:	Ralph Jones	256-534-0582

Name	City	Sponsor
Joyce Cook	Adamsville	Mike & Debra Teague
Misty Johnson	Albertville	Brenda Gunnells & Freda Johnston
Betty Jeffers	Albertville	David Socha & Laurie Price
Kelly Hancock	Albertville	Tony Jones
Charlotte Cofield	Albertville	Ann Seay, Ginger Young & Mt. Vernon E's
Leigh Roberts	Andalusia	Sherry Lusk & Renee Todd
Linda Thacker	Birmingham	Jerry & Anita Gray
Toni Parham	Birmingham	Ann Alderson
Bonnie Miller	Birmingham	Holli Warren
Melissa Bruce	Birmingham	Holli Warren
Kelley Head	Birmingham	Angela Holland & Holli Warren
Melinda Crowden	Boaz	Rena Kennedy
Trista DeBacker	Boaz	Connie Kennamer
Katie Taylor	Clarksville	Patsy Howell & Kristie Taylor
Brooke Cowart	Crossville	Andrew Gamblin
Suzanne Graves	Crossville	Lila Gamblin
Carolyn Johnson	Decatur	Roger Watkins
Dodi Romero	Fayette	Mary Ham
Cathy Lowe	Gadsden	Peggy Casey
Christie Knowles	Gadsden	Peggy Casey
Sheree Smothers	Gardendale	Iris Bates
Brandy Maples	Grant	Adrienne Pope
Barbara Gould	Guin	Travis Gould/Jacky & Bobbie Harris
Barbara Greenwell	Guntersville	Jan Martin
Brigitte Hulsey	Haleyville	Shane Hulsey
Catherine Brown	Homewood	Jim & Martha Furio
Kathy Christy	Huntsville	Ken Bauer
Rebekah Graham	Huntsville	Dick & Brenda Titus
Eileen Chavez	Madison	Brooke Hodges
Jacquelyn Autrey	Montgomery	Alice Yeager
Nancy Pinion	Moulton	Marshall Lewey
Marsha Martin	Mt. Olive	Sherry Purser
Janice Nelson	North Lauderdale	Elise Brasseale
Whitney Petrey	Northport	Joe & Cheryl Petrey
Maggie Raburn	Northport	Melissa Hannah
Andrea Womble	Owens Cross Rds.	Lisa Banks & Beth Wilson
Peggy Fowler	Phil Campbell	Carly Hellums
Stephanie Harrison	Pinson	Patricia Culp & Leslie Spencer
Eve Belue	Rogersville	Myra Belue
Lesley Bearden	Springville	Laura DeGuenther
Beverly Davis	Tuscaloosa	Kathy Mason
Lori McGuire	Tuscumbia	Joel & Kerri White
Lauren Stroud	Tuscumbia	Alan & Denise Wilson
Dawn Wolff	Union Grove	Gary & Vivian McRae
Lynda Fowler	Vina	Brent & Carly Hellums and Bryan Sartain
Delana Youngblood	Winfield	Cyndy & Larry Norris

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

It...
is...
coming!

Praying for You

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

Judy Trull (156), for the loss of her father

Karen Watts (32), for the loss of her mother, Louise Young

Melissa Rogers (311), for the loss of her mother, **Suzanne Thomason (279)**

Sandi Teague (373), for the loss of her husband, Tom Teague

Larry Busby (208), for the loss of his mother

Melanie Moseley (258), for the loss of her mother, Margaret Hammonds

Angie Strickland (243), for the loss of her father, Billy Still

Rietta Broom (156), for the loss of her husband, **Russ Broom (155)**, and **Valerie Burrage (114)**, for the loss of her step-father

Becky Wilson (234), for the loss of her father, Richard Keith, and **Kevin (220)** and **Keith Wilson** for the loss of their grandfather

The family of **Donnie Deal (55)**

The family of **Jane Pegues (58)**

Marcia Pemberton (258), for the loss of her father, Allen E. Saxon

Kay Allen (230), for the loss of her mother, Robbie Jean Partridge