

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 9 No. 3

April 2011

Community Humble Servants

- Amy Floyd**
Lay Director
- Mark Parris**
Spiritual Director
- Carolyn Phillips**
Community Coordinator
- Ted Hagler**
Treasurer
- Buddy Berry**
Sandra Brasher
Beth Burden
Roger Crowson
Amy Floyd
Ken Hanby, Sr.
Diane Herfurth
Mark McCurdy
John McQueen
Sally Moore
Rick Pearson
David Phillips
Philip Reich
George Scroggin, Jr.
Bill Smith
Delores Sparks
Board Representatives
- Kim Anderson**
Literature
- Neil Odom**
Supplies
- Jackie Mize**
Community Agape
- Dan Bell**
Name Tags

Who is in charge here?

By AMY FLOYD
Lay Director

The daffodils have pushed their way through the still-cold hard ground and shown us the first bits of color. The forsythias are in their full yellow glory. The Bradford pear trees and the ornamental cherry trees are awash with spectacular white and pink blooms. The southern charm of the camellia is evident as she opens her pink and red blooms amid a backdrop of dark green leaves. Then the azaleas burst out in shades of red, pink, purple and white. Next come the lace-like illusions of white and, sometimes, pink, delicate flowers of the dogwoods. Then He dots the canvas with the purples of the red bud trees. His crowning glory has to be the delicate, drooping fronds of the tiny purple (or maybe white) flowers called wisteria that drape over trees, shrubs, and fences. In

just the right sunlight, and in just the right spot, you just might catch a glimpse of all these magnificent bouquets at once. I wonder if the streets of gold are as beautiful. And if you look hard, you can see the beginning of tiny green leaves tipping the skeleton branches of winter. How could anyone doubt who is in charge here?

It is Thursday evening, and people are gathering in Hutto auditorium. Many are merrily chatting and laughing, and some have that deer in the headlights look. Some are excited to be in this place, and some are wondering why they are in this place. After a bit, some of these people disappear into the depths of the building and begin a journey that they have never encountered before. They are meeting new friends, singing new songs, and maybe still wondering why they are in this place. It is Friday

evening. Some are looking for an escape route. Some are in cell phone withdrawal. Some have not slept and they are tired. The Hotel Sumatanga (thanks Spike) has not delivered on the luxury yet! But something is holding them there.

Then we see these people on Saturday evening, and they seem a little more relaxed, a faint smile is evident, and they have not discovered the escape route. Awe and amazement are evident among the tears as they glimpse the heavenly facsimile of angles awash in the glow of candles. When we gather again Sunday evening, we don't recognize these weary, yet revitalized travelers. There is a glow about them. They are smiling and laughing and hugging everyone. They are changed. Their hearts have been warmed, their spirits

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Famous last words

By Rev. MARK PARRIS
Spiritual Director

Famous last words are an interesting study. One would think that some thought and planning would go into such irreplaceable words.

Humphrey Bogart is reported to have said, "I should never have switched from Scotch to Martinis." O. Henry said, "Turn up the lights. I don't want to go home in the dark." Edmund Gwynn (actor, 1959) said, "Of course dying is tough, but not as tough as do-

ing comedy."

Not all recorded last words are frivolous though. Wasn't it John Wesley who said, "The best of all is, God is with us." Thomas Beckett (c.1119-1179) said, "I am ready to die for my Lord, that in my blood the Church may obtain liberty and peace." But beyond compare are the last words of Jesus as he died on the cross.

The four Gospels give us seven statements that Christ made from the cross. As we journey toward Jerusalem, the cross

and the tomb, let us consider these moving last words of our Lord.

"Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother." John 19:26-27. These words were spoken to Jesus' best friend and to his own mother. It speaks volumes that in the midst of his own agony Jesus was not thinking of himself, but others. He knew his mother would need John and that John would need his mother. This reminds me of the

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Backing Up Or Moving Ahead?

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

As I write this, we have a crew of men in our basement working to remedy our backed up plumbing. Of course this would happen when we have our grandchildren visiting during their Georgia spring break. Things getting backed up are never a good thing. It really backed up all of our plans.

There was a time when applications to attend an Emmaus Walk were backed up. We once had a year-long waiting list, but no more. Some years ago we had approximately one thousand current and inactive applications. That has now changed. In our Community and in others as well, the number of applications has declined. There are many reasons such as "it's not the right time," "money is not available," or "no vacation time" etc.

If you are thinking of sponsoring someone on their Walk, please pray about doing it now. If dates are not good, I will do my best to schedule them for a date that would work better. Often we have expectant parents who want to attend before their baby is born. Believe me, I do my best to get these folks scheduled for a Walk as soon as possible. With the number of active applications on hand down to 220, there have never been so many opportunities to attend a Walk quickly.

It is my prayer that the Walk to Emmaus will continue to grow in North Alabama and those pilgrims who want to go will be able to attend. With praying sponsors and a local supportive church, we should be able to accomplish this in the future.

De Colores!
Carolyn Phillips
Talladega 1st UMC, AL Emmaus Walk #63, Table of Ruth

Sumatanga newsletter available

Camp Sumatanga has an electronic newsletter that is available to anyone who submits an email address.

Keep up with what is happening at the camp by receiving updates and news. If you would like to receive the notices from camp, send your email address to <http://www.sumatanga.org/NewsletterSingUp.aspx>.

The Grapevine

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Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 1016 Sedgefield Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35150, or emailed to DHall92727@aol.com.

Emmaus Board updates community

From Board Reports

During these hard and uncertain economic times, the Emmaus Board has had concerns that the walk rates for both pilgrims and team members would increase this year.

Camp Sumatanga has accepted our current rates for the remainder of 2011.

Most likely our rates will increase in 2012. Hopefully, many prospective pilgrims and their sponsors will want to get in on the lower 2011 rates.

The DVD player that Emmaus uses to show the Thursday night video is on its last leg. Would a cluster, reunion group or individual consider replacing this for the community?

If interested in doing so, please let the Emmaus office know. We will graciously accept the first offer.

The Board has been asked to put out the word that Kairos will again be taking place at Draper Correctional Facility. Emmaus alumni comprise a portion of each team.

If you are interested in being a part of this event as either part of the "inside" team or the "cook team" that prepares food for the walk, contact Jack Hausen at 205-873-0699 for more information.

Floyd

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have been lifted, and they are looking ahead with differently opened eyes. Again, we have to ask ourselves, "Just who is in charge here?" Could the answer be any more evident?

During this gloriously beautiful time of year we have the forty day season of Lent. During this period we have opportunities for reflection, confession, and spiritual renewal. It is a time to reflect on what a life with Christ means for us, and offers us an opportunity to grow closer to God through Jesus Christ. Many of us participate in special services, meals, and studies. We read devotions designed to bring us closer to the events of Easter week.

In a few weeks we will be at that time that we remember the last week of Christ's life. His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem amid the cheers of the crowds is quickly changed to darkness as we watch our Savior on trial for trumped up charges. How can we look as we see Him beaten and humiliated by that same crowd that cheered Him only a few days before. We watch as He struggles to climb the hill, as He experiences the unimaginable pain of spikes driven into His hands and feet, and the agony as He hangs for hours on a rough wooden cross. The past, present and future sins of the world are on His shoulders, and He willingly carries them. He is doing this for you and for me.

The stone is rolled back and the tomb is empty except for the burial clothes. We celebrate because we know that without this act, we would be forever held captive by sin. Because He lives, we can live our lives knowing our sins are forgiven and our future is forever in His house. Dare we even ask the question? Do we even wonder who is in charge here?

Parris

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gospel song, "When he was on the cross, I was on his mind." Jesus thought of others while suffering for humanity.

"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34. I can't prove it but I suspect that these words of grace from their victim silenced Jesus' adversaries for a moment. The amazing thing is that they were forgiven for mocking, beating and executing Jesus! These evil men who were seeing this miscarriage of justice through to its end were forgiven by Jesus and by The Father. I would think God would order the fires of hell made seven times hotter than usual for this mob, but Jesus asks that they be forgiven. Aren't you glad that God is God and we are not?

"Today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43. Jesus spoke these words to a criminal being executed beside him. Adam Hamilton writes, "I love this. Jesus, hanging on the cross, was still seeking to save those who were lost. This man did not understand theology. He did not know Scripture. He had not recited a creed. He had not joined a church or been baptized. He was hanging on the cross for his crimes when, at some very simple level, he caught the vision of Jesus' kingdom and asked if he might become part of it; and that was enough. 'Now that I see who you are,' he was saying, 'I'd like to follow you.'" Jesus said, "Welcome home, friend. I'll introduce you to the family."

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46. These words came from the hymnal of the Hebrews, the book of Psalms, chapter 22. Was the Son of God forsaken by God? Abandoned and cut loose from all that is holy while he was doing God's

will to perfection? I may differ from some, but I don't think Jesus was in reality forsaken. Couldn't it be that in the midst of intense pain that his senses told him that he was forsaken but in truth he wasn't? Revelation 13:8 states that the Lamb was slain from the creation of the world. The cross was in God's plan even before our first parents sinned. I believe God was never more proud of his only begotten son than at that moment on the cross.

"I am thirsty." John 19:28. This statement from the cross reminds us of the humanness of Jesus. Yes, he is fully God and fully human, but he has put on the skin and nerve endings of us all and he is intensely thirsty amidst his pain. He was tempted as we are. He experienced disappointment as we do. He was incredibly thirsty having not had anything to drink since the Passover Meal the night before. He prayed in the garden, was arrested, falsely tried, and beaten almost beyond recognition, then crucified for six hours. Indeed he was thirsty as we have never experienced.

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46. Though Jesus may have expressed feelings of forsakenness earlier, here, as death approaches, his confidence is in God. "I've trusted you before, Father, and I will trust you now. I place myself into your hands. I know you will not let me see corruption."

"It is finished." John 19:30. This is far from being a cry of giving up. This is a cry of victory! As Jesus entered the ministry three years before, God began to make clear how he was to go about seeking and saving the lost. Jesus received that plan and

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Upcoming Walks					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
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
388	Aug. 11-14	Kelly Moore	Dallas Culver	Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton	Sally Moore/ Delores Sparks
389	Sept. 8-11	Lori Mills	David Lee	Shoals/Moulton/Decatur/ Athens	Philip Reich/Beth Burden
390	Sept. 15-18	Missy Bissonnette	Carl Long	Gadsden/Cherokee- DeKalb/Marshall	Buddy Berry/Mark McCurdy
391	Oct. 13-16	Bill Glover	Kelly Clem	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 386
May 26-29, 2011**

Lay Director	Arthur Young (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Barry Thompson (Priority) David Phillips (Fourth Day) Stirling Rait Charlie Ping Willie Johnson Butch Fennell.
Spiritual Director	Bobby Green (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Ted Anderson (Prevenient Grace) Russell Hestley (Justifying Grace) Chuck Worley (Sanctifying Grace) Paula Calhoun (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Angel Rait
Asst. Table Leaders	Jack Bailey (Priesthood) Dennis Murphy (Study) Chris Carden (Discipleship) Chuck Belitz (Changing Our World) Buddy Vandervoort (Christian Action) Frank Miller (Body of Christ) Philip Noble (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Paul Locke Lee Taylor Mark Kearse Larry Busby David Roush James Dodwell Bill Weaver
Board Rep.	Carolyn Phillips

Committees

Agape:	Susie Roush	256-207-0578
Meal Service:	Becky Willis	256-820-0471
Refreshments:	Lorraine Busby	256-831-5861
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Debra Carmack	256-435-8799
Housing:	Lynn Kearse	256-839-6044
Candlelight:	Brenda Causey	256-831-9993
Clean-up:	Bill Prestridge	256-831-6820
Closing:	Teely Samsom	256-835-1321
Entertainment:	David Phillips	256-362-9452
Follow-up:	Gary Kinghard	256-362-2956
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Judy Anderson	256-435-6892
Sponsors' Hour:	Dresden Tuggle	256-225-7717
Worship:	Glenda Prestridge	256-831-6820
Photographer:	Bob Crisp	256-835-7129
Humble Servant:	Patsy Young	256-820-1429
	Bill Prestridge	256-831-6820

Name	City	Sponsor
Raymond Cook	Adamsville	Mike & Debra Teague
Charles Fields	Albertville	Philip & Stephney Gregg
Bobby Bentley	Albertville	Whitney Bouldin
Steve Marshall	Albertville	David Chupp
Dave Hyatt	Attalla	Brandy Hyatt
Brody Black	Birmingham	Jim Foster
Jimmy Yarbrough	Boaz	Jodi Yarbrough
Shelby Percy	Cottondale	Danny Sims
Richard Westbrook	Fayette	Mary Ham
Greg McGuire	Florence	Leo Burnett
Tony Latham	Florence	Tom Thompson
Edward Gartman	Gadsden	Barry Hooks, Steve Yarbrough & Andrea Marbut
Patrick White	Gadsden	Linda Garland & Stephen White
Shan Parsons	Guntersville	Andrew Gregg
Les Linderman	Guntersville	Andy Powell
Jerry Myrick	Hamilton	Gerald Gann
James Edwards	Huntsville	Ben James
Claude Turner	Huntsville	Alan Richardson
David Wilks	Madison	Randall & Brenda Wilks
Doug Mote	Moulton	Cathryn & Lile Bickley
Guillermo Dietrich-V	Muscle Shoals	Jim & Pat Maddox
Tommy Latham	Northport	Ken Hanby, Jr.
Matt Hammond	Northport	Joe Petrey
Jerrell Bowden	Northport	Ken & Karen Worley
Brad Petrey	Northport	Joe & Cheryl Petrey
Justin White	Northport	Jay McCollum
Charles Stewart	Northport	Tinia Tubbs
Fuzzy Turner	Odenville	David Hudson, Monty Bell & Ken Deason
Mark Brandenburg	Odenville	Tom Weaver & Richard Coggins
James Williams	Pinson	Steve Spitzer
Bruce Guinn	Tuscaloosa	Tim & Tammy Morton
Joel McLaughlin	Tuscaloosa	Tinia Tubbs
Scott Clark	Tuscaloosa	Jay McCollum
Patrick Sularin	Union Grove	Chris Graves
Daniel Teague	Vinemont	Charlie & Dianne Herfurth

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 387
June 9-12, 2011**

Lay Director	Denise Cone (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Debbie Alexander (Priority) Teresa Harris (Fourth Day) Julia Rudd Merrie Lynn Pearson Lynn Carmichael Lucy Thraikill
Spiritual Director	Ron Schultz (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	TBA (Prevenient Grace) TBA (Justifying Grace) TBA (Sanctifying Grace) TBA (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Patricia Tate
Asst. Table Leaders	TBA (Priesthood) Doris Booker (Study) LaShawn T. Scholl (Discipleship) TBA (Changing Our World) Linda M. Smith (Christian Action) Sherri Garst (Body of Christ) Barb Heisey (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Dolores Bunn Iris Bates Sara Bryant Lyn Cosby Ruth Ann Clay Mycha Odom TBA
Board Rep.	John McQueen/Rick Pearson
Committees	
Agape:	Patty Bunch 205-655-5365
Meal Service:	Kathleen Drake 205-631-3576
Refreshments:	Elaine Wildsmith 205-296-7325
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Neil Odom 205-853-5517
Housing:	Maria Williamson 205-497-0371
Candlelight:	Becky Austin 205-663-5161
Clean-up:	Gene Rayfield 205-640-3131
Closing:	Gene Rayfield
Entertainment:	TBA
Follow-up:	TBA
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Frances Kernea 205-988-3412
Sponsors' Hour:	Gene Thraikill 205-744-8370
Worship:	Pam Branham 205-837-2705
Photographer:	TBA
Humble Servant:	Chris Cone 205-201-9363

Name	City	Sponsor
Mandi Reed	Albertville	Robert Reed, Andrea Brothers & Carla Prince
Amy Copeland	Anniston	David Copeland
Kay Clark	Arab	Nona Proctor & Jake Biddle
Judy Roads	Arab	Sherria Isom
Monica Carnes	Arab	William Koch
Kris Murphy	Athens	Barbara Searcy
Bonnie Miller	Birmingham	Holli Warren
Linda Williams	Birmingham	Patricia Jones
Lu Ann Newman	Birmingham	Phillip Springer & Mark Niffenegger
Linda Thacker	Birmingham	Jerry & Anita Gray
Cindy Schreiber	Birmingham	Rita Gilbert
Missy Wiggonton	Boaz	Scott Wiggonton & Cyndi Brewer
Christy Powell	Calhoun	Andy & Amelia Powell
Katie Taylor	Clarksville	Patsy Howell & Kristie Taylor
Helen Gibson	Columbiana	Jo Ellen Greene
Becky Wilcox	Crossville	Tonya & Eddie Marsh
Michelle Johnston	Crossville	Cyndi Brewer
Kim Hale	Cullman	Judy Bonds
Miriam Smith	Deatsville	Roby Bang & Patty Bunch
Odette Yeager	Decatur	Donna Formby
Vickie Westbrook	Fayette	Mary Ham
Theresa Rook	Florence	Danny & Patsy Killen
Dolores Bidy	Florence	Verna White
Jerri Brooks	Florence	Ginger Stone
Carolyn Mills	Gadsden	Phyllis Jones
Anna Beth Isom	Guntersville	Andra Isom
Lou McReynolds	Guntersville	Lance Joyner
Melody McCulley	Gurley	Cindy Marsh
Arlene Faber	Hamilton	George & Dolores Childree
Misty Myrick	Hamilton	Gerald Gann
Lisa Murray	Horton	David Socha
Beth Rogers	Huntsville	Bill Jordan
Alice Watson	Huntsville	Barbara Keller
Kelly Smythe	Huntsville	David Smythe
Tori Spearman	Irondale	Ann Alderson & Joyce Simonson
Virginia Wilks	Madison	Randall & Brenda Wilks
Lisa King	Madison	Stephanie Fenton
Jane Goodman	Moulton	Carla Crosslin
Mercedes Dietrich	Muscle Shoals	Pat & Jim Maddox
Holly Prewitt	Northport	Kacie Davis
Angela Parham	Northport	David Parham
Lisa Hudson	Northport	Charlotte Balentine & Ashley Haskew
Maggie Raburn	Northport	Melissa Hannah
Rhonda Tinney	Oneonta	Lori McKoy
Robin White	Oneonta	Anna Ray
Peggy Fowler	Phil Campbell	Carly Hellums
Paula Johnson	Piedmont	Connie Hicks & Shelia Saccucci
Angel Jackson	Pinson	Genene Jackson
Sherri Goolsby	Pleasant Grove	Debra & Mike Teague
Brittany Sullivan	Reamlap	Leigh Chamblee
Melanie Huguley	Sheffield	Zeke Haselden
Sam Colburn	Sheffield	Vic Watford
Co Co Smith	Sylacauga	Chris & Amy Carden

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The Grapevine

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

Parris

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worked that plan for the rescue of humanity. And now as he breathes his last, no longer able to raise himself to catch a breath, he declares, "It is finished." And as another song states so well, "It is finished, the battle is over. It is finished, there'll be no more war. It is finished, the end of the conflict. It is finished and Jesus is Lord."

**IT IS ALMOST HERE.
ARE YOU READY?
MAKE YOUR PLANS TO
ATTEND THE
ANNUAL ALABAMA
EMMAUS TRAINING EVENT
AUGUST 12th & 13th.
SEE YOU AT CAMP!**

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 **Bobby Perry (172)**

Rod Alexander (299), for the loss of his wife, **Connie Alexander (223)**

Deborah Bell Paseur (15), for the loss of her mother, **Jeanne Bell (23)**

Pilgrims 387

(Continued from Page 5)

Name	City	Sponsor
Pam McCurley	Sylacauga	Lisa Fornwalt
Leigh Anne Harris	Sylacauga	Lisa Fornwalt & Holly How
Callie Ward	Trussville	Marc Ward
Katharine Leonard	Tuscaloosa	Kacie Davis
Susan Jacobs	Tuscaloosa	Connie Spiller
Lori McGuire	Tuscumbia	Joel & Kerri White
Lauren Stroud	Tuscumbia	Alan & Denise Wilson
Ann Moon	Vinemont	Frances Brock
Sheena Wilson	Warrior	Linda Wilson