

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 9 No. 6

December 2011

Community Humble Servants

Amy Floyd
Lay Director

Ralph Barrow
Spiritual Director

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

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Beth Burden

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Bill Smith

Dolores Sparks
Board Representatives

Kim Anderson
Literature

Neil Odom
Supplies

Jackie Mize
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

For everything there is a season

By **AMY FLOYD**
Lay Director

Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” (NIV)

This is the season of fall – a time when there are changes in the weather and the landscape. Fall is my absolute favorite time of the year. The temperatures are cooler, the air smells cleaner, and most noticeable, God’s paintbrush dips into a multitude of color. How magnificent are the reds, oranges, yellows, russets, and even fading greens He splashes on His canvas.

And all those colors become like a fire when He turns the sun toward the colorful branches. And isn’t the sky bluer this time of year? Where can you turn this time of year and not see His beauty everywhere?

As a sixth grader I was required to learn and recite Helen Hunt Jackson’s poem, “October’s Bright Blue Weather.” The one verse I remember is the first:

*O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October’s bright blue weather.*

June has its seasonal beauty, but October

and the rest of fall have it beat! Every time I drive the interstate or just around my neighborhood, I see the colors, and my breath is taken away. Seeing all of this reminds me of how great is my God. Only He can create the beauty around us.

Many people say they don’t like fall because it is a time of dying. Yes, fall is the season of dying leaves, but what a beautiful death! Fall is so much more than dying leaves. It is their beauty, the crisp air, football and fireplaces, homemade soup and soft flannel shirts.

The squirrels are gathering acorns for the winter and many of the birds have flown to more southern spots. All in due season. Yes, it is a lot of work cleaning up all those beautiful leaves after they have fallen, but that is part of this season – putting away the old and making room for the new.

In other parts of life the old must step aside for the new. In January, Philip Reich will be the Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director. This past year I have had the pleasure of serving in that position.

God has blessed me this year with many new friends and opportunities to share His love with others. I am grateful to the community for its

(Please See Floyd Page 8)

Letter kills, Spirit gives life

By **RALPH BARROW**
Spiritual Director

Paul wrote that the letter of the law kills, but the spirit of the law gives life. As an example of the tension between letter and spirit, we might revisit the Fourth Commandment, which is stated in Exodus 20:8-11:

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any

work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your town. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

While we might acknowledge the spirit or intent of this general law in promoting sabbath worship and overall worship of the Lord, there arose differences of opinion with re-

gard to the way sabbath observance is carried out. While the commandment found among the Ten Commandments calls for positive observance of the sabbath, we read in Exodus 31:15 of the consequences of failure to observe the sabbath:

Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall be put to death.

(Please See Barrow Page 2)

Who do you say that I am?

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." - Matthew 16:13-16

As we prepare for our Christmas cantata, we have used many names to sing the praises of Jesus. He was known by many names to those who knew him when he walked the earth. He was a baby boy, son, brother, friend, carpenter, and fisherman. We now know him as Immanuel, Prince of Peace, only Son of God, Wonderful Counselor, Messiah. The ministries He began and the Spirit He left for us are with us to this very day.

When we go to our jobs each day, who do we say that He is? When we spend quality time with our family, who do we say that He is? When we ask someone to attend the walk, who do we say that He is? Each and every day, who do we say that He is? This is a very special time of the year, and I pray that we can all say that He is truly in our lives!

May Mighty God bless those who are in faraway places, protecting our country! May God, the Prince of Peace bless those who struggle to serve our country here at home!

May God, the Wonderful Counselor bless those who serve and minister to the less fortunate in this and all seasons! May God, the Everlasting Father bless you and your families and keep them safe!

May God the Christ Child be in all our hearts and on our lips this Advent Season! AMEN

Joy to the world!

Carolyn Phillips

Talladega 1st UMC

Walk 63, Table of Ruth

The Grapevine

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Barrow

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Later oral laws and rabbinic commentaries on the law specify what exactly can and cannot be done on the sabbath. The Pharisees of Jesus' time were proponents of clear observance of the sabbath, but even among the Pharisees there were some differences of opinion.

One group of rabbis, the school of Shammai, felt that there was to be no gathering of grain whatsoever on the sabbath. The School of Hillel allowed hand-rubbing of grain on the sabbath. Jesus defended his disciples for this gathering of grain for personal use on the sabbath, saying, "The sabbath was made for man; not man for the sabbath."

Jesus' words about the sabbath are a sample of looking for the spirit of the law—what the sabbath can do for mankind, rather than at the letter of the law—what mankind should do to fulfill the letter fully.

Dr. Jim Fleming told of a situation which occurred about 20 years ago in Jerusalem. In accordance with the beliefs of Orthodox Jews, certain areas of the city were cordoned off on the sabbath, blocking the movement of cars into those areas.

Such movement was seen by these persons as "work" not to be done on the sabbath. In the midst of sabbath worship, a man began to have chest pains.

Because it was recognized that this constituted an endangering of the man's life, the barricades were removed and a doctor was allowed to drive into that area and examine the man. When the leaders became aware that the man was going to be all right, the barricades were put back in place and the doctor was not allowed to drive his car home until the sabbath had ended.

While we might wonder if it wouldn't have been all right for the doctor to drive home, at least these Orthodox Jews were promoting sabbath worship yet willing to bend what was custom for them in an attempt to preserve a man's life.

For those who are conscientious about wanting to live a life of faith there is often a tendency to want to describe in detail what can and cannot be done. At the very least we know we need general principles by which to live.

The central commandments, according to Jesus, are love of God and love of neighbor. Paul writes that "the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." When our lives are touched by the love of God shown in Jesus, we find the grace to offer love in return. It is the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of God and Spirit of Jesus—which offers help in determining what God would have us do and strength to actually do it. In the new life lived by God's grace, we open ourselves to love God and love our neighbor with all we have. We seek to live "in Christ," following "the law of Christ" or "the spirit of the law."

When we in our religious life try to capture in words the spirit of a worship service; the policy for carrying out a wedding, a funeral, or a spiritual retreat; or to detail closely the walk a Christian should take in life, we run the risk of blocking the presence of Christ. Words of guidance are needed, but we also want to remain open to the spirit of the law and the Spirit's presence.

Congratulations to those persons
who will join the Board in January!

Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!

**Joining the Alabama Emmaus Community
Board of Directors in January
will be:**

Dolores Bunn	Sheilah Wiginton	Ken Albrecht	Betty Fowler
Bill Jordan	Missy Bissonette	Linda Godwin	Butch Fennell

Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!Congratulations!

Guidelines for serving on an Emmaus Walk team

1. Be actively involved in your local church.
2. Be active in a Reunion Group.
3. Attend your Cluster follow-up events.
4. Fill out a service sheet; have your name included on your Cluster's available-to-serve list.
5. Make a personal time commitment to all team meetings and the Walk weekend.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
395	Jan. 19-22	Sharon Canada	Paula Calhoun	Cheaha/E. Ala	David Phillips
396	Feb. 2-5	Chad Bottcher	Bob Gunn	Shoals/Moulton/Athens/ Decatur	Dianne Herfurth
397	Feb. 16-19	Cyndy Norris	Tim Alexander	Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton	Dolores Sparks
398	Mar. 1-4	John Chastain	Robin Scott	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Mark McCurdy
399	Apr. 12-15	Dottie Nelson	Charles Gaddis	Huntsville/Madison	Bill Smith
400	Apr. 26-29	Steve Crowe	Mike Densmore	Cheaha/E. Alabama	David Phillips
401	May 3-6	Cathy Dutton	Eric Brown	Shoals/Moulton/Athens/ Decatur	Beth Burden

*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 395
January 19-22, 2012**

Lay Director	Sharon Canada (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Teely Samson (Priority) Lynn Carmichael (Fourth Day) Barbara Klinghard Dian Long Brenda Kent Dell Stone
Spiritual Director	Paula Calhoun (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Sherry Reynolds (Prevenient Grace) Lloyd Gibbs (Justifying Grace) John Simmons (Sanctifying Grace) Frank Canada (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bob Bentley
Asst. Table Leaders	Judy Hay Anderson (Priesthood) ELaine Russell (Study) Susie Roush (Discipleship) Denise Bunford (Changing Our World) Angel Rait (Christian Action) Lisa Fornwalt (Body of Christ) Judy Belitz (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Valrie Bain Linda Kociaba Laura Reaves Debra Fennell Susan Howard Amy Calhoun-Bishop Stephanie Terrell
Board Rep.	David Phillips

Committees

Agape:	Barry Thompson	256-835-9306
Meal Service:	Larry Scott	256-329-1000
Refreshments:	Stirling Rait	256-831-5097
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Ted Anderson	256-435-6892
Housing:	Bill Prestridge	not available
Candlelight:	John Fuller	256-235-2083
Clean-up:	Roger Calhoun	256-847-3396
Closing:	April LaFollette	256-237-0729
Entertainment:	Kathy Murphy	not available
Follow-up:	Becky Willis	not available
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Roberta Wycoff	256-329-3826
Sponsors' Hour:	Butch Fennell	256-835-5933
Worship:	Lee Witherington	256-391-7463
Photographer:	Bob Crisp	256-835-7129
Humble Servant:	Caolyn Phillips	256-315-2346

Name	City	Sponsor
Brigette Harrison	Albertville	Sherry Lusk
Ramona Rosser	Albertville	Lisa Murray & Shirley Amos
Natasha Tidmore	Albertville	Sammi Kirkland
Beverly Maxwell	Arab	Diane Brown
Monica Carnes	Arab	William Koch
Tricia Cash	Arab	Venita Shirley
Vicki Broadway	Big Cove	Pam Petersime
Linda Tucker	Birmingham	Laura DeGuenther
Chrissy Holden	Birmingham	Lisa Donnell
Ruth Beenken	Birmingham	John & Dianna McQueen
Peggy Harvey	Birmingham	John & Dianna McQueen
Alexa Williams	Boaz	Chris & Laina Williams and Randy & Gwen Peppers
Morgan Chamblee	Boaz	Trista DeBacker & Tony Jones
Katie Taylor	Clarksville	Patsy Howell & Kristie Taylor
Helen Gibson	Columbiana	Jo Ellen Greene
Babsi Edwards	Columbus	Sarah Rickert/ Carolyn Bentley
Michelle Johnston	Crossville	Cyndi Brewer
Betty Ann Mitchum	Decatur	Barbara Kirby & Ann Ozier
Melanie Danielowicz	Florence	Patti Joiner
Meredith McClanahan	Florence	Brandi Oliver
Lisa Hare	Grant	Jimmy & Brenda Selvage
Martha Green	Guntersville	Martha Nell Johnson
Mary Carroll	Guntersville	Venita Shirley
Lisa May	Huntsville	Martha Stanley
Debbie Collins	Huntsville	Sherry Johnson
Lauren Carter	Huntsville	Tim Tatum
Debbie Johnson	Killen	Patti Joiner
Nancy Waye	Madison	Marsha Blocker
Debra Stidham	Muscle Shoals	Georgia McCaig
Holly Prewitt	Northport	Kacie Davis
Robin White	Oneonta	Anna Ray
Angel Jackson	Pinson	Genene Jackson
Leslie Harp	Rainbow City	Rhonda DeHaven
Betsy Rainer	Sheffield	Patti Joiner
Lula Anthony	Tuscaloosa	Ken Hanby, Jr.
Tracy Barton	Tuscaloosa	Connie Spiller
Gina Williams	Vina	Carly Hellums
Jessica Griffiths	Warrior	Renee' Todd

Alabama Emmaus Walk 396 February 2-5, 2012

Lay Director	Chad Bottcher (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Jim Maynard (Priority) Donnie Armstrong (Fourth Day) Bud Bottcher Frederick Martin Hal Mills Leo Burnette
Spiritual Director	Bob Gunn (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Bob Murray (Prevenient Grace) Gary Formby (Justifying Grace) Larry Morgan (Sanctifying Grace) Dudley Brock (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Mark Custer (Priesthood) Jamie Cosby (Study) Scott Henry (Discipleship) David McKenzie (Changing Our World) Mark Jackson (Christian Action) Charles Woodroof (Body of Christ) Freddie Martin (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Wes Henry Brian Moore Grant Thompson Perry Moon David Spiegle Billy Hargrove Scott Hargrove
Board Rep.	Dianne Herfurth

Committees

Agape:	Suzanne Thompson 256-431-4499
Meal Service:	Ray Chenault 256-974-0776
Refreshments:	Barbara Chenault 256-974-0776
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Kate Anderson 256-998-3775
Housing:	Mark Lovejoy 256-764-0431
Candlelight:	Johnny Marshall 256-777-1846
Clean-up:	Shaun Webb 256-497-8406
Closing:	Angela McKenzie 256-230-0022
Entertainment:	Jamie Cosby 256-247-1793
Follow-up:	Debbie Tuton 256-710-2149
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Sherry Belwe 256-247-5835
Sponsors' Hour:	Mark Heflin 256-974-9087
Worship:	Jan Hargrove 256-333-0936
Photographer:	Mitchell Stevens 256-766-3675
Humble Servant:	Kim Bottcher 256-233-1232

Name	City	Sponsor
Lance Williams	Albertville	Russ Henderson & Glenda Kilpatrick
Phillip Ellen	Attalla	Andy Powell
Chris Smith	Decatur	Dallas Culver
Jonathan McKee	Florence	Kendrick Burns
Dale Cole	Fort Payne	Jay Myrick
Albert Smith	Guntersville	Bill Kirkpatrick
Harold Frederick	Haleyville	Butch Foster
Drew Holland	Homewood	Lisa Elliott & Karen Smith
Tommy Dothard	Huntsville	Mark Hedden & Jim Green
Matthew Herndon	Madison	Scott Thackerson
Randy Mullican	Moulton	Cecil Caine & Tim Littrell
Clay Rice	Northport	Tyler Mitchell
Robert Shirley	Sheffield	Samantha Colburn & Vic Watford
Monte Deschner	Tuscaloosa	Brad Almond
Jones Fowler	Tuscaloosa	Scott Gibson & Frankie Mann

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 397
February 16-19, 2012**

Lay Director	Cyndy Norris (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Shanna Ozbirn (Priority) Lou Ann Hubbard (Fourth Day) Pat Hardin Carlin Burrow Barbara Ellis Della Ann Howell
Spiritual Director	Tim Alexander (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Needra Deerman (Prevenient Grace) Jeff Fleming (Justifying Grace) Billy Weems (Sanctifying Grace) Belinda Freeman (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Debbie Wood
Asst. Table Leaders	Patty Gann (Priesthood) Kim Perdue (Study) Carolyn Alexander (Discipleship) Mary Ham (Changing Our World) Delores Childree (Christian Action) Emily Burleson (Body of Christ) Terri Alexander (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Carla Roberts Linda Alldridge Barbara Gann Kitty Frederick Alisia Wood
Board Rep.	Dolores Sparks

Committees

Agape:	Kevin Posey	205-412-2602
Meal Service:	Jackie Mize	205-486-2787
Refreshments:	Joan Cleveland	205-356-6836
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Jimmy Gregg	205-412-8975
Housing:	Sally Moore	256-356-4770
Candlelight:	Lee Page	256-356-9946
Clean-up:	Ken Farr	256-332-3864
Closing:	Ken Farr	
Entertainment:	George Childree	205-412-5135
Follow-up:	Beth Riggs	205-921-3098
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jerry Howell	205-486-4108
Sponsors' Hour:	Gerald Gann	205-689-8743
Worship:	Freda Crumpton	205-486-3261
Photographer:	Mike Shewbart	256-810-1263
Humble Servant:	Larry Norris	205-487-6679

Name	City	Sponsor
Rebecca Willoughby	Albertville	Nona Proctor & Jane Wright
Stacey White	Arab	Regina Gregory
Karla Hamby	Boaz	Shalynn Kilpatrick
Molly Lynn	Brownsboro	Roger & Karren Crowson
Shannon Millican	Cleveland	Doris Booker & Tammy Dunn
Debbie Bradford	Muscle Shoals	Celia Rudolph
Janice Hayes	Union Grove	Regina Gregory
Crystal Albinson	Union Grove	Beverly Simpson

What if God had voice mail system for us?

We have all learned to live with "voice mail" as a necessary part of modern life. But, have you wondered "what if God decided to install voice mail?"

Imagine praying and hearing this:

Thank you for calling My Father's House.

Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for Requests

Press 2 for Thanksgiving

Press 3 for Complaints

Press 4 for All Other Inquiries.

What if God used the familiar excuse... "I'm sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line."

Can you imagine getting these responses as you call God in Prayer?

If you would like to speak to:

Gabriel, Press 1

Michael, Press 2

For a directory of other angels, Press 3

If you'd like to hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding, please Press 4

To find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, enter his or her social security number, then press the pound key. (If you get a negative response, try area code 666.)

For reservations at "My Father's House" please enter J-O-H-N, followed by 3-1-6.

What if you heard, "Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow."

Or "This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

Please pray again Monday after 9:30 AM. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local pastor."

Thank GOD, He doesn't have voice mail and He always listens when we pray. After all, remember that God always answers a "Knee Mail."

--Submitted by Amy Floyd, source unknown



The Grapevine

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

Floyd (Continued from Page 1)

support, and most especially to the Board members for their support this year. I would like to thank Roger Crowson and Buddy Berry for their service as Board members these last three years. It has been an honor serving with these two gentlemen. I pray that as the new Board season approaches that Philip and the eight new Board members will have the support and love I have felt.

Without a doubt, God has been right beside me the whole year. His arms have been tight around me listening to my concerns and prayers. I don't think He is going any where. He is comfortable here, and He will be here for the next season as well. DeColores.

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

**This holiday season be the
hands and feet of Jesus to
those who need help!
Remember to serve,
not be served!!**

Praying for You

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

Elinor Roberts (246), for the loss of her son, Joseph Thomas "Tom" Roberts, Jr.

The family of **Ann Keith (122)**

Margaret Finch (5), for the loss of her husband, **Arthur Finch (RM 44)**

Sandra Steverson (256), for the loss of her sister, Anita Cannon Hammond

Celia Wynn (254), for the loss of her husband, **Jeff Wynn (229)**

Pam Young (321), for the loss of her father, Hunter Vardaman, II

Carol Ann Hawkins (152), **Neal Westbrook (Blue Lake)** and **Al Westbrook (144)**, for the loss of their father, **Clyde Westbrook (97)**

Sidne Martin (283), for the loss of her brother, Fred Whitehead

Leigh Murphy (18), for the loss of his father, Hugh Carnes Murphy

Greg Spoon (219), for the loss of his father, Ralph Spoon