

Alabama Emmaus Community News

# The Grapevine

Vol. 10 No. 2

March 2012

## Community Humble Servants

**Philip Reich**  
Lay Director

**Ralph Barrow**  
Spiritual Director

**Carolyn Phillips**  
Community Coordinator

**Ted Hagler**  
Treasurer

**Ken Albrecht**  
Missy Bissonnette

**Dolores Bunn**

**Beth Burden**

**Butch Fennell**

**Amy Floyd**

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**Ken Hanby, Sr.**

**Dianne Herfurth**

**Bill Jordan**

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**David Phillips**

**Philip Reich**

**George Scroggin, Jr.**

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**Kim Anderson**  
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**Jackie Mize**  
Community Agape

**Dan Bell**  
Name Tags

## What's prayer got to do with it?

**By PHILIP REICH**  
Lay Director

We pray for our pilgrims, even by name, and for our walks, but do we also pray for our Emmaus community? If you do this on a regular basis, then bless you. We just need a lot more like you! How often do we tackle a problem, planning, calculating, organizing, coordinating, and working, and in the process forget to include God? How basic to the Christian faith is this, and yet how easy it is to be all about us working to get the job done. How often do we carry around heavy loads that God wants us to put down or, better yet, give to Him. Why else is Dying Moments so meaningful and necessary in our Walk to Emmaus?

So prayer is easy, right? I realized long ago that my prayer life is not anything as it should be. Working on Walk 380 a little over a year ago in February 2011, I purchased *Praying* by J.I. Packer from our book table. Packer had quickly become one of my favorite Christian authors as I had also previously read his classic works, *Knowing God* and *Growing in Christ* (also purchased from the book table). Interestingly enough, as I began reading this book on praying, I realized that in just four short pages in the preface the author covered all

that I thought needed to be said about prayer. What in the world could Packer possibly say in the next 307 pages about prayer?!? Oh, how often I just need to be still and quiet and listen to God "...in the spirit of cooperation and charity..." One of the basic truths set forth by Packer is "there is no such thing as unanswered prayer from a child of God." God hears us and answers us in the best way and at the best time. We also know that "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16) Therefore, I definitely want the Emmaus community praying for me and mine!

My grandson Hudson, some six years ago at the tender age of three, was rushed to a local hospital, suffering with seizure like symptoms, leaving specialists who examined him clueless as to what was happening. Hudson was sent to UAB hospital by med-flight helicopter as my wife and I drove our son and his wife by car to Birmingham not knowing what we would face upon arrival. On the way, in desperation, I thought to call a dear friend, who was very active in the Emmaus community, and asked her to please contact her prayer partners in Emmaus and have them

(Please See Reich Page 2)

## Can the Resurrection Be Proved?

**By RALPH BARROW**  
Spiritual Director

The empty tomb is certainly a sign which points to the resurrection. Jesus' appearances to Mary, Peter, John, Cleopas, the one who walked with Cleopas toward Emmaus, and many others are also signs pointing toward the resurrection. Yet these signs fall short of being "proof." In John 20 we read that Peter and "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (likely, John) ran to the tomb on Sunday morning. They saw

the linen wrappings lying there, and a separate cloth that had been on Jesus' head. We read that when the beloved disciple saw what was there (and not there) he believed. Also in John 20 we read that Mary saw a man she presumed to be the gardener, and spoke to him. Only when he called her by name did she recognize him and call him "Rabbouni." A week later Thomas saw Jesus and was told by Jesus to reach out his hand and put it in Jesus' side. (We don't know whether he actually

touched Jesus' side, but we do read that the offer was made.") Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God." In Luke 24 Cleopas and the other disciple walked with Jesus, but only when he gave them the bread and wine did they see that it was Jesus.

In each case there was a moment of faith that came for these persons who had been associated with Jesus. They "knew" that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Although there were signs of

(Please See Barrow Page 2)

## Now, don't get carried away

Peter was sharp.  
*He kept his distance from Jesus.*  
*"I'll stay close enough to see him," Peter reasoned.*  
*"But not too close, or I may get caught."*

Good thinking, Peter.  
*Don't get too involved – it might hurt.*  
*Don't be too loyal – you might get branded.*  
*Don't show too much concern – they'll crucify you, too.*

We need more men like you, Peter.  
*Men who keep religion in its place*  
*Men who don't stir the water.*  
*Men who reek with mediocrity.*

That's the kind of man God needs, yessir.  
*One who knows how to keep his distance:*  
*"Now, I'll pay my dues and I'll come once a week,*  
*but ... well ... you can get carried away, you know."*

Yes, you can get carried away ...  
*up a hill*  
*to a cross*  
*— and killed.*

Peter learned a lesson that day – a hard lesson.  
*It is better to have never followed Jesus than to have followed him and denied him.*

Mark these words:  
*Follow at a distance and you'll deny the Master.*  
*Period.*  
*You won't die for a man you can't touch. Period.*  
*But stay near to him, in his shadow ....*  
*You'll die with him, gladly.*

~ On The Anvil  
Max Lucado

May we stay near to him, in his shadow!  
**Carolyn Phillips, Talladega 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Walk 63, Table of Ruth**

## *The Grapevine*

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## Reich

(Continued from Page 1)

pray for this child. She did, and of course, the doctors at UAB were amazed that the symptoms that had been so constant and threatening before had stopped without any medical reason or explanation. We all knew the reason then and now—answered prayers!

I still become emotional when I recall this event and this miracle in our midst. I know that we all have great faith stories of abundant blessings and miracles performed by God to share, often as a result of prayer.

But back to the original question: why do we not pray with our whole hearts for our Emmaus community and for God to bless our efforts in His name and to provide ample pilgrims for the Walks scheduled for 2012 and the years ahead? Certainly we all will be planning and working together to this end, but let us not forget the first and most important part—asking God to bless our heartfelt effort.

**DeColores.**  
**Philip Reich, Community Lay Director, 2012**

## Barrow

(Continued from Page 1)

the resurrection that invited faith, there was no scientific proof. Hebrews 11 describes faith as "the conviction of things not seen." Jesus said that there were some who would not believe "even though a man should rise from the dead." Yet many have come and will come to believe.

Sometimes we would like to have absolute proof of the resurrection and for our overall belief in God—DNA of Jesus on a shroud found in Italy, the finding of a boat on a mountain in Turkey with the name "Noah's Ark" on it, etc.. What we do have is the beauty of creation; the disciples' attesting to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; and the changed lives of believers in every generation. We can live life, if we choose, only on the basis of what is material and what is demonstrably correct. Or, as our response to the grace of God which we see in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we can live by faith. We can view the death of Jesus and say, with the centurion, "Truly this man was the Son of God." And when we see the empty tomb and hear the witness of believers, we can believe that he is alive today. If we are asked how we know Jesus lives, we can answer, "He lives within my heart."

During the month of February, we received 83 applications, which is a great number. However, we still have a real need for men's applications. There is no waiting at this time to attend a walk. Men are being scheduled for Walk 400, April 26 –29 and Walk 402, May 17–20. The application to attend is available on the website. Please prayerfully consider someone you might like to sponsor for these upcoming walks.

## As individuals we should step up for pilgrims

By **BILL SMITH**  
Assistant Lay Director

I was just looking at the *Grapevine* Newsletter and I wondered what percentage of readers are members of a reunion group. A large percentage will be a safe assumption. People in reunion groups seem to make up the vast majority of active members. These people who get involved, stay involved, and are interested in our Emmaus community.

It is not a stretch to say reunion groups are the life blood of Emmaus. When we sponsor someone, getting them to the Walk is only half the job. We should be extremely diligent in including them into our reunion group or finding them a suitable group. Vince Lombardi, the legendary football coach, said, "Championship teams are built on the basics, and the basics are blocking and tackling." The basics of Emmaus are reunion groups. We know the importance of getting new pilgrim into a reunion group, yet we seem to let that part of our duty slip by. Pilgrims will not invite themselves to a reunion

group. We must take the lead and in some way get them into a group. Without doubt this will take as much, or more, effort than getting them on their Walk.

The reunion group I attend is quiet large, too large in fact. I know I should break off and start a new one. But, I have several good reasons not to do what I know I should do. I like it here – These are my friends – I can tell them anything – They care about me – I care about them – We have been through so much together – I do not want to hurt anyone's feelings – the time and place is so convenient. You can add your own very good reasons to this list.

The church I attend has several members who have been through Emmaus and are not active in Emmaus at this time. If they had gotten into a reunion group, would their attitude be different? Maybe

they were never invited to join a group. Maybe they received a lukewarm invitation but not encouraged. Maybe they were in a group and it folded for some reason. The fact is they are not active at this time. Could I start a new reunion group from these guys? Would a new group help meet the needs of returning pilgrims? Probably so, but am I willing to step away from my comfort zone.

Where did Paul start his first Church? Does it really matter? The real question is what if he had just stayed there? Would Christianity have blossomed the way it has?

Our community is going through a lull. We need to be revitalized. Reunion groups are the perfect tool for this revitalization. As individuals we should step up. We should ask ourselves, "What can I do?" More importantly, "What will I do?" It is our personal decision to make.

**De Colores. Bill Smith**

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**"Our Community is going through a lull. We need to be revitalized. Reunion groups are the perfect tool for this revitalization"**

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<h1>Upcoming Walks</h1>					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
399	Apr. 12-15	Dottie Nelson	Charles Gaddis	Huntsville/Madison	Bill Smith
<b>400</b>	<b>Apr. 26-29</b>	<b>Steve Crowe</b>	<b>Mike Densmore</b>	<b>Cheaha/E. Alabama</b>	<b>David Phillips</b>
401	May 3-6	Cathy Dutton	Eric Brown	Shoals/Moulton/Athens/ Decatur	Beth Burden
<b>402</b>	<b>May 17-20</b>	<b>Jeremy Burns</b>	<b>Mark Parris</b>	<b>Tuscaloosa/W. Alabama</b>	<b>Ken Hanby</b>
403	June 7-10	Dianna McQueen	TBA	Bham East/Bham South/ SShelby	John McQueen/ Dolores Bunn
<b>404</b>	<b>Aug. 9-12</b>	<b>Tony Mize</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton</b>	<b>Dolores Sparks</b>
405	Sept. 20-23	Gloria Smith	TBA	Shoals/Moulton/Athens/ Decatur	Beth Burden/ Bill Jordan
<p><b>*Men's Walk</b>                      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 401  
May 3-6, 2012**

Lay Director	Cathy Dutton (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Lynn Littrell(Priority) Bobbie Shelton (Fourth Day) Vickie Terry Kay Davis Tami Glenn Georgia McCaig
Spiritual Director	Eric Brown (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dudley Brock (Prevenient Grace) Lillian Eddleman (Justifying Grace) Carl Long (Sanctifying Grace) Ian Butler (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Marshall Lewey
Asst. Table Leaders	Dianne Norwood (Priesthood) Cathryn Bickley (Study) Jennifer Brewington (Discipleship) Melanie Little (Changing Our World) Marketta Terry (Christian Action) Jean Crawford (Body of Christ) Gale Satchel (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Detra Smith Barbara Carroll Myra Yates Wannell Scott Amanda Hargrove Vicki Morese Ann Glover
Board Rep.	Beth Burden, Bill Jordan

**Committees**

Agape:	Kim Qualls	256-351-4917
Meal Service:	Rosemary Laster	256-974-1522
Refreshments:	Leasha Laster	256-810-0899
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Linda Smith	256-974-9243
Housing:	Bill Jordan	256-710-1486
Candlelight:	Anne McCullough	256-366-2284
Clean-up:	Don Shelton	256-974-1034
Closing:	Jerry Carroll	256-974-0991
Entertainment:	Don Shelton	
Follow-up:	Cathy Sanderson	256-974-6603
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Bob & Stella McDuff	
Sponsors' Hour:	Danny Killen	256-764-0407
Worship:	Jan Hargrove	256-777-4095
Photographer:	Mitchell Stevens	256-766-3675
Humble Servant:	Tim Littrell	256-974-9513

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Kim Blackstone	Albertville	Misty Brogdon & Tina Zweck
Kimberly Campbell	Albertville	Heather Epperson
Tammy Jackson	Alexander City	Ellen Philips
Patty Reaves	Anniston	Jennifer Thomas
Krissy Malone	Athens	Jan Hargrove
Laura Cardwell	Birmingham	Cameron Cardwell & Chad Bottcher
LaShea Williams	Boaz	Ann Seay & The Mt. Vernon E's
Karla Hamby	Boaz	Shalynn Kilpatrick
Michelle Johnston	Crossville	Cyndi Brewer
Nella McGraw	Cullman	Haley Smith
Gayle Sewell	Dadeville	Bob & Dell Stone
Courtney Cameron	Fort Payne	Beverly Elrod
Mary Grace Hammond	Guntersville	Beckie Caldwell
Whitney Glover	Hodges	Carly Hellums & Lynda Fowler
Jodi Kortman	Hoover	Tina Nelson & Vicki Morgan
Felicia Veal	Hoover	Tina Nelson & Vicki Morgan
Lisa May	Huntsville	Martha Stanley
Chrissy Freeman	Huntsville	Beckie Caldwell & Kelly Hensley
Nancy Waye	Madison	Marsha Blocker
Jana Washburn	Madison	Albert Killen
Brittany Golden	Reamlap	Leigh Chamblee
Jennifer Mize	Southside	Suzanne Smith
Lauren Murray	Spruce Pine	Carly Hellums & Sue Hellums
Jeanie Ogle	Sylacauga	Bobby & Anna McCain
Julie Holden	Tuscaloosa	Jane & Ted Hagler
Alice Maxwell	Tuscaloosa	Sherri Trick
Susan Woods	Tuscaloosa	Sherri Trick & Bethany Galbraith
Gayla Gist	Tuscumbia	Bill Gist & Kristen Burns

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 402  
May 17-20, 2012**

Lay Director	Jeremy Burns (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Ricky Mayers (Priority) Freddie Hammond (Fourth Day) Todd Gibson (Priesthood) Danny Sims Mike Nix Adam Tant
Spiritual Director	Mark Parris (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Woody Jones (TBA) Preston Headrick (TBA) Ron Thomas (TBA) Lynn Gibson (TBA)
Music	Ronnie Brasher
Asst. Table Leaders	Johnny Crimm Butch Burgess (Study) Mike Smith (Discipleship) Charles Weldon (Changing Our World) Kenneth Baines (Christian Action) Robbie Godwin (Body of Christ) Bill Trull (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Mark Scogin Bob Wood R.L. Guffin Joe Petry Chester Norris
Board Rep.	Ken Hanby, Sr. Linda Godwin

**Committees**

Agape:	Erin Burns	205-662-4724
Meal Service:	Sherry Lockhart	205-242-6048
Refreshments:	Dot Brewer	205-759-5500
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Jamie Rickert	662-425-9344
Housing:	Judy Trull	205-596-3477
Candlelight:	TBA	
Clean-up:	TBA	
Closing:	Kathy Mason	205-339-6560
Entertainment:	Ronnie Brasher	205-333-3694
Follow-up:	TBA	
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Danielle Eppes	205-554-0767
Sponsors' Hour:	David Holmes	256-405-8741
Worship:	Polly Bailey	205-553-2535
Photographer:	Carol Frazier	662-328-5397
Humble Servant:	Dewayne Burns	662-574-3441

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Dan Thompson	Akron	Tinia Tubbs, Gina Clary & Rhonda Martin
Chad Oswalt	Argo	Band of Brothers (Tom Weaver)
Tom Richey	Fayette	Mary Ham
Chris Montgomery	Florence	James Ray
Rodney Stidham	Hamilton	Sheilah Wiginton & James Beasley
Harry Smith	Killen	Glenn Stokes
Andrew Rouse	Rogersville	Glenn Stokes
Joel McLaughlin	Tuscaloosa	Tinia Tubbs
Elliott Robbins	Vance	Candice Robbins

*The Grapevine*

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

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*It is the*  
**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
*of the Alabama*  
**Walk To Emmaus.**  
*Come celebrate*  
*with us*  
**August 10 & 11.**

*Praying for You*

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

**Dot Boerner (104)**, for the loss of her husband, **Bob Boerner (100)**

**Diane Allison (148)**, for the loss of her mother, Maitland W. Newsome

**Carla Crosslin (242)**, for the loss of her husband, **Charles Crosslin (306)** and **Reagan Gillespie (392)**, for the loss of her step-father

**George Rudd (115)**, for the loss of his wife **Patricia Rudd (116)**, and **Julia Rudd (79)**, and **Rebecca Mauldin (259)**, for the loss of their mother

The family of **Sibyl Bynum (50)**