

# The Grapevine

## 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**

**Betty Fowler**

**Linda Godwin**

**Ken Hanby, Sr.**

**Dianne Herfurth**

**Bill Jordan**

**Mark McCurdy**

**John McQueen**

**Sally Moore**

**Rick Pearson**

**David Phillips**

**Philip Reich**

**George Scroggin, Jr.**

**Bill Smith**

**Dolores Sparks**

**Sheilah Wiginton**  
Board Representatives

**Kim Anderson**  
Literature

**Neil Odom**  
Supplies

**Jackie Mize**  
Community Agape

**Dan Bell**  
Name Tags

## Scrap iron crosses

# God uses us where we are

By **PHILIP REICH**  
Lay Director

I was recently in Birmingham browsing in a store near the Pepper Place Market and was captivated by beautiful crosses in all sizes made from iron--scrap iron--by a beautiful lady named Catherine Partain. Many of you may know her and her work. I read a brochure about her life and how she studied painting in Florence, Italy, and used her God-given gift of expression in illustrations and oil painting until tragedy changed everything.

She beautifully shares that God directed her to "make crosses," and she did and does—all out of scrap iron. Catherine uses the damaged, discarded pieces of metal to create beautiful crosses, each with a different message or title. The cross I purchased has "True Friend" inscribed on the back and

was made with iron from the Alberta Methodist Church in Alberta City, destroyed by the tornado that hit Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on April 27, 2011.

Catherine says this about her work, "I only use scrap iron to make my crosses. I rummage around and use natural disaster scrap, farm scrap, and industrial scrap. I use it as-is. I never forge or cast iron, and I rarely cut it. I only work with found pieces, as I feel that is how God works with us. He does not change our core personalities and talents. He cultivates them toward their true purpose. He does not give us new histories. He works with the ones we've got. He doesn't change our mistakes. He makes them part of our unique story."

Catherine reminds us that God uses us as we are and where we are. We have all that we need to do the thing that is before us.

The very thing which appears to be destroyed or tragic is made beautiful in Christ! (You can read more about Catherine's inspiring life and work online at [www.crossesbycatherine.com](http://www.crossesbycatherine.com))

There is no doubt (and we all know by experience) that God is alive and unconditionally loving, and He offers us more grace than we could ever imagine. Like an unclaimed letter, I wonder how many times God's grace was available to me and was returned unused at the very time I needed it the most. Could it be that for all I know my entire life's experiences led me to that very moment, and I didn't even notice, or worse yet, self got in the way again?

Unfortunately, the Devil is really in the details of living. Perhaps my greater sin is in just being "comfortably good" when I

**(Please See Reich Page 2)**

## What would we do without the Church?

By **RALPH BARROW**  
Spiritual Director

At the funeral of a person's son or daughter, or in the middle of some other hardship, sometimes someone will say, "I don't know what people do who don't have a church family." In the biblical story of Elijah, he flees from the North to the South of the country, chased by the army of Jezebel. Elijah thinks, wrongly, that he is the only follower of Yahweh left.

It is lonely feeling. In an illustration from William Barclay, a priest goes to see a man who has not been active in the life of the church. A pile of coals glows in the fireplace as the priest talks of the benefits of life in the community of faith. The priest gets up and pushes one of the coals away from the pile. He and the man watch

as the single coal cools off while the others continue to burn. The man says, "I see what you mean. I'll be back to church."

On the other hand, many seem to do OK without the church. When hardship strikes, they have family and friends that help them, in a manner similar to the support felt by members of the church. They see that followers of God, like Elijah, are not immune from feelings of isolation.

The church may fail to offer support. The person outside the church may find warmth in other ways than fellowship with fellow Christians. If we separate ourselves from the church, we may find ourselves from certain financial responsibilities and time commitments. Some may

**(Please See Barrow Page 2)**

## Board News

The Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors took the following actions at its February meeting:

1. Identified major goals for the Board during 2012. Top 3 are a. Better sponsorship b. Quality pilgrims c. More communication with clusters
2. Developed committees
  - a. Lay Director Preparation – Identify what are major commitments Lay Directors must make. The Community Spiritual Director will use this when asking potential Lay Directors.
  - b. Cluster Support/Development – Develop ways clusters can grow and prosper.
  - c. Manual Update – Continue to revise committee information.
  - d. Financial Procedures – Identify roles of treasurer and handling of money.
3. Selected a Lay Director for Walk 408.
4. Set Board Representatives for future walks
5. Accepted the Community Coordinator's and Treasurer's Reports
6. Accepted the report from an accountant who examined our finances and found them appropriate and in order.
7. Accepted the 2012 Budget.
8. Adopted a new per person fee system for the East Wing.
9. Accepted revised suggested reading list that goes into pilgrims' packets.

The Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors took the following actions at its March meeting:

1. Begin paying the Upper Room \$13 per pilgrim as they have requested. Previously, \$10 per pilgrim has been sent.
2. List Board actions in the Grapevine as well as on the Alabama Emmaus website.

## *The Grapevine*

Alabama Emmaus Office, P.O. Box 1216  
Talladega, AL 35161  
256.315.2346 or 256.315.2347 Fax  
Web: [www.AlaEmmaus.org](http://www.AlaEmmaus.org)  
**email: [Office@AlaEmmaus.org](mailto:Office@AlaEmmaus.org)**

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

## Reich

(Continued from Page 1)

could have gotten “self” entirely out of the way and allowed Christ to live in and through me in that very moment. After all, didn't I ask God to drive the car? So why do I keep grabbing the steering wheel when I don't like where we are headed? How have the difficulties of life kept us from living in our 4th days as God expects us to? What could we each do to better serve God in our churches and in our Emmaus community?

We always need to remember what we said to ourselves and perhaps those present at closing of our individual Emmaus walks as to what the experience meant to us and what we were going to do about it. Was there a time limit on this expression of faith, or does it have a “shelf life?” What is the point of The Walk To Emmaus? What is it now that we each need to do in our homes, our churches, our communities, and in our Emmaus Community?

We have received and continue to receive blessings from God to be able to bless others. We experience, as did Catherine Partain, blessings in tragedy to be able to then help others who go through similar situations. May we always remember that which is written in blood on the back of our Emmaus crosses—”Christ is Counting On You.”

**DeColores,  
Philip Reich**

## Barrow

(Continued from Page 1)

conclude that they are better off without such burdens.

While many of us find our lives enriched by being in the Church, we may long for a time when the Church is all God intends it to be. What we need is not merely to go to church but to hear the message of Jesus in and through the Church.

The Church could be just a support group for the lives we have chosen. But when we meet Jesus in the church and believe in him as the way to fulfillment, our whole lives are different. We are able to find forgiveness of our sin through Jesus. Where we gather in Christ's name and Spirit, we catch a glimpse of the kingdom of God. We look forward to the day when God's kingdom will come in its fullness. Even now we pray: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

When the church is all that it is meant to be as the body of Christ, it is a vehicle of God's grace. Out of the grace offered to us in Jesus, we offer forgiveness and grace to one another. We grow in faith. We believe that for Christian people death is followed by resurrection. The *agape*, or love of Christ, flows through the church and into our lives.

Our marriage, our family, and our church life comprise building blocks for a new society and a new world. All this is possible because God has offered his Son Jesus and we have accepted this gift in faith. While we are still sinners and the Church does not fully live out its calling, it remains the community God has ordained to point to Jesus and his kingdom.

When we and the Church are renewed by God's grace, it might indeed be wondered what anyone does without Christ and the Church.

**De Colores!**

ALABAMA EMMAUS COMMUNITY SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS					
As of May 14, 2012					
WALK	DATE	GENDER	SCHEDULED	INVITED	ACCEPTED
<b>2012</b>					
402	May 17-20	Men	29	29	27
403	Jun. 7-10	Women	45	45	45
404	Aug. 9-12	Men	19	0	0
405	Sep. 6-9	Women	46	0	0
406	Sep. 20-23	Women	12	0	0
407	Oct. 11-14	Men	1	0	0
408	Nov. 1-4	Men	2	0	0
409	Nov. 29-Dec. 2	Women	2	0	0
<b>2013</b>					
410	Jan. 24-27	Women	2	0	0
411	Feb. 21-24	Women	0	0	0
412	Mar. 7-10	Men	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>159</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>

These are the applications we have scheduled. If you have someone you would like to sponsor please prayerfully consider one of the upcoming Walks.

**De Colores! Carolyn Phillips, Talladega 1<sup>st</sup> UMC**  
**Walk 63, Table of Ruth**

Upcoming Walks					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
403	June 7-10	Dianna McQueen	Mark Adams	Bham East/Bham South/ SShelby	John McQueen/ Dolores Bunn
<b>404</b>	<b>Aug. 9-12</b>	<b>Tony Mize</b>	<b>John Simmons</b>	<b>Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton</b>	<b>Dolores Sparks</b>
405	Sept. 6-9	Gloria Smith	David Lee	Shoals/Moulton/Athens/ Decatur	Beth Burden/ Bill Jordan
406	Sept. 20-23	Linda McCurdy	Terry Bentley	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Mark McCurdy/ Missy Bissonnette
<b>407</b>	<b>Oct. 11-14</b>	<b>Richard Blocker</b>	<b>Alan Weatherly</b>	<b>Hunsville/Madison</b>	<b>Bill Smith/ Ken Albrecht</b>

**\*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 403  
June 7-10, 2012**

Lay Director	Dianna McQueen (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Julie English (Priority) Doris Booker (Fourth Day) Teresa Harris Merrie Lynn Pearson Stephanie Weson Ruth Ann Clay
Spiritual Director	Mark Adams (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Jim Savage (Prevenient Grace) Phyllis Riddle (Justifying Grace) Bart Bowlin (Sanctifying Grace) Bryan McIntyre (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Charlie Beavers
Asst. Table Leaders	Cherie Season (Priesthood) Lynn Carmichael (Study) Sandra Brasher (Discipleship) Roxann Edsall (Changing Our World) Sherri Goolsby (Christian Action) Lisa Fornwalt (Body of Christ) Holly McCollum (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Joyce Cook Patty Bunch Monica Gallups Lucy Thraikill Jill Smith Debra Teague Carol Rayfield
Board Rep.	John McQueen, Dolores Bunn

**Committees**

Agape:	Tammy Carpenter 205-420-1376
Meal Service:	Jim Riddle 205-655-7648
Refreshments:	LaShawn Scholl 205-938-9256
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Mary Nell Saunders 205-522-4828
Housing:	Jane Hagler 205-985-9608
Candlelight:	Bill Arnold 205-871-1770
Clean-up:	Ted Hagler 205-985-9608
Closing:	Emily Lansford 205-669-7676
Entertainment:	Mr. G 256-927-3090
Follow-up:	Walter Bryant 205-823-3622
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Francis Kernea 205-988-3412
Sponsors' Hour:	Gene Rayfield 205-640-3131
Worship:	Pam Branham 205-681-1872
Photographer:	Ronnie Harris 205-525-4850
Humble Servant:	Walter Bryant 205-823-3622

Name	City	Sponsor
Lori Leverett	Alabaster	Rebecca Austin
Cori Gosnell	Alabaster	Keith Owens
Leah Hartline	Arab	Stacey White/Regina Gregory
Amy Fiscus	Athens	Brian Moore
Anne Carter	Athens	Kris Murphy
Ellie Lovvorn	Athens	Amanda Hargrove, Jan Hargrove, Jenny Sims, Kim Henry & Corrie Hinkle
Shirley Paramore	Birmingham	John & Dianna McQueen and Jean & Frank Jones
Diane Smith	Birmingham	John & Dianna McQueen and Jean & Frank Jones
Leigh Jacks	Birmingham	Holli Warren
Lana Johnson	Birmingham	Wade Griffith
Judy Harmon	Birmingham	Cloud of Witnesses RG (Bar bara Brodie)
Lola Whisenant	Birmingham	Gerry Rogers
Rachel Pace	Decatur	Dallas Culver
Libby Kimbrell	Fayette	Bonnie Thomason
Rachel Jarmon	Guntersville	Deanna Langford
Katy Norton	Guntersville	Beverly Simpson
Amanda Lemons	Gurley	Lance & Andrea Hallman
Deanna Nicholas	Gurley	Tina White
Linda Wright	Hamilton	Steve Howell
Tricia Miller	Hamilton	Steve Howell
Mitzi Owen	Helena	John & Dianna McQueen and Jean & Frank Jones
Florence Mbote	Helena	Vickie Morgan
Whitney Glover	Hodges	Carly Hellums & Lynda Fowler
Tara Jackson	Horton	David Socha
Darlene Tucker	Horton	Missy Wiggonton
Jan Howle	Huntsville	Judy Wilson
Donna Engels	Madison	Coleen Leopard Glover
Kathy Welchans	Madison	Dave & Susie Roush
Holly Prewitt	Northport	Kacie Davis
Ranona Hansford	Northport	Patricia Clark
Sherry Holloway	Odenville	Joyce Simonson
Pam Jones	Piedmont	Divine YaYa Virtual RG (Rhonda DeHaven)
Shannon Ivey	Piedmont	Divine YaYa Virtual RG (Rhonda DeHaven)
Ashley Steward	Piedmont	Divine YaYa Virtual RG (Rhonda DeHaven)
Carol Tierce	Piedmont	Divine YaYa Virtual RG ( Rhonda DeHaven)
Regina Long	Red Bay	Anne Vinson
Lauren Murray	Spruce Pine	Carly Hellums & Sue Hellums
Carrie Stanford	SulligentS	helly Hollis
Tammie Waldrop	Trussville	Holli Warren
Carol Glover	Trussville	K. Jill Sellers
Angela Shaw	Tuscaloosa	Mary Bendall
Judy Evans	Tuscaloosa	Connie Spiller
Julie Holden	Tuscaloosa	Jane & Ted Hagler
Sunny Duren	Tuscaloosa	Ken Hanby Sr. & Cathy Wood
Susan Parker	Winfield	Pattie Gann

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 404  
August 9-12, 2012**

Lay Director	Tony Mize (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Robert Wood (Priority) Kevin Posey (Fourth Day) Ronald Crumpton Ken Farr Jerry Jackson Alan Wilson
Spiritual Director	John Simmons (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Tim Alexander (Prevenient Grace) Don Wright (Justifying Grace) Jeff Flemming (Sanctifying Grace) Scott Ward (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Debbie Wood
Asst. Table Leaders	Mike Shewbart (Priesthood) Clyde Putnam (Study) Dennis Upchurch (Discipleship) Rick Hall (Changing Our World) Bob Masdon (Christian Action) Mark Burleson (Body of Christ) David McNutt (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Ben Burleson John Davidson Jerry Howell Paul Huffman Gene Matthews Stacy Ozbirn Paul Roberts
Board Rep.	Dolores Sparks

**Committees**

Agape:	Pat Hardin	256-332-3449
Meal Service:	Brenda Massey	256-332-0842
Refreshments:	Denise Wilson	256-627-1561
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Beth Riggs	205-921-3098
Housing:	Jennifer Swinney	256-627-0731
Candlelight:	Karla Huffman	256-356-9966
Clean-up:	Teresa Wilson	205-486-3869
Closing:	Ben Cashion	205-486-8477
Entertainment:	George Childree	205-495-2012
Follow-up:	Hobby Manasco	205-486-7482
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	George Farris	205-486-2003
Sponsors' Hour:	Jimmy Gregg	205-412-8975
Worship:	Kim Perdue	256-331-0140
Photographer:	Roland Ellis	205-921-9748
Humble Servant:	Roland Ellis	

Name	City	Sponsor
Van Campbell	Albertville	Kimberly Campbell & Heather Epperson
Bill Fiscus	Athens	Brian Moore
Chad Leonard	Boaz	Stephen McClendon & Brandon Greer
Doug Wright	Calera	Bill & LaShawn Scholl
Allen Bearden	Cottondale	Ken Hanby, Sr.
Larry Kloep	Decatur	Vern Spearman
Jeremy Coburn	Florence	Chad Kennington
Neal Dyar	Hartselle	Vern Spearman
Mike Todd	Harvest	John Ryberg
Michael Russ	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Charles Brinkley	Huntsville	Chris Comer
Joe Campbell	Huntsville	Carole Foret
Mark Stuart	Huntsville	Chuck Jones & Spike McRoy
Grayson Lawrence	Jacksonville	Ted Anderson
Chris King	Kimberly	Ron McBride & Mark Barber
Jeremy Allen	Maylene	Harris Wheeler
Mitchell Walker	New Market	Vern Spearman & Joe Palmer
Vern Ogle	Sylacauga	Bobby & Anna McCain
Billy Sparkman	Talladega	David Phillips



## *The Grapevine*

P.O. Box 1216  
Talladega, AL 35161

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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.**

#### **Pictures are needed from walks**

The pictures taken of the conference room on Friday morning are being collected for a special project for the Annual Training Event in August. If you have pictures either from your original walk or as a team member in the conference room, please scan and email them to [aefloyd@bellsouth.net](mailto:aefloyd@bellsouth.net). You can mail them to me at 405 Maple Street, Birmingham, 35206, and I will copy and return to you. I especially need the double digit and 100 number walks. Thank you for your help. Amy Floyd

#### *Praying for You*

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

**Jane Hawkins (234)**, for the loss of her sister, Nell Alice Branson

**Linda Stewart (234)**, for the loss of her mother, Dorothea Carre

**Tom Caudle (112)**, for the loss of his wife, **Celia Caudle (110)**

**Karen Norton (249)**, for the loss of her husband, **Tim Norton (212)**

**Danny Sasser (165)**, for the loss of his mother, Carolyn Sasser

**Elaine Beard (17)**, for the loss of her mother, **Anita Bristow (21)**

**Julia Rudd (79) and Rebecca Mauldin (259)**, for the loss of their father, **George Rudd (115)**

**Kim Warren (286)**, for the loss of her mother, Althea Chandler

**Charlie Baker (157)**, for the loss of his mother, **Ethel Baker (171)**

The family of **Dannie Hean (328)**

**Christine Cromer (164)**, for the loss of her husband, Paul Cromer

**Suzy Ingram Hall (228)**, for the loss of her father

**Barbara Morgan (23)**, for the loss of her husband, **Pete Morgan (22)**

**Ralph (70) and Sandra Jones (63)**, for the loss of their son, and **Charles Jones (180)**, for the loss of his brother, Jeffrey Jones