

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 10 No. 4

August 2012

Community Humble Servants

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Lay Director

Ralph Barrow
Spiritual Director

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

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Community Agape

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Completion: Lives come full circle

By **PHILIP REICH**
Lay Director

Over the past few months, I have attended too many funerals of dear friends, who were all members of our Emmaus community and lived exemplary, faithful lives among us: Charles Crosslin, Bud Bottcher, Danny Killen, and Ray Chenault.

We grieve and mourn with loved ones and miss their presence, their witness and their touch.

What great men! Each has made a significant difference in their Church and community. Each also had their life significantly impacted by Emmaus and served faithfully on countless teams. All of this gave me reason to consider the incompleteness of life itself.

As we go through the phases of life, our interests and our wants certainly change. In our infancy, we want that special toy and may judge the quality of our Christmas by the amount of "stuff" we get. "If we could just get that great present, then ..."

When we are a little older, we want to excel at the things before us which seems to be the most important thing in all the world—athletics, competition, dating.

When we reach the magical age of 16, we dream of the perfect set of wheels. "If I could just get this car, then life would be grand indeed!"

Maybe our thoughts later turn to just getting out of high school. "If I could just get out of high school, how great would it be not to have to be at school every day from 8 to 3!"

Then, we may think of college after high school and making a living and having a family. "If I could just find the perfect person to marry, then life would be great with no problems." We are blessed with children, and we dream of just getting them raised. Certainly then, life would be grand.

When our children finally leave home to go off to school, we emotionally endure their absence and can't wait for them to come home again. We interestingly learn that after a few days back home with the parents, our children don't fit as they once did. They are like baby birds out of the nest, learning to fly.

Eventually they must establish their own family. A very funny college friend of mine jokingly describes his favorite Christmas lights to be the red of his daughter's tail-lights as she pulls out of the family driveway, headed back to school.

None of the things in life that we hope for and dream about and that we think will make us complete really do so. We can easily fill in the blanks from our own experiences. Work, exercise,

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From struggle to hope and light

By **RALPH BARROW**
Spiritual Director

The presence of the Lord with us does not keep us from facing hard times. But the Psalms, particularly those called "laments," identify a movement from struggle to hope.

Typical steps in this movement can be identified: 1) Generally a complaint is lodged with God, a cry for help; 2) a situation of need is described; 3) there is a hopeful looking forward to God's deliverance; and 4) finally a thankful pro-

fession of one's trust in God, even in the present situation.

This willingness to acknowledge the darkness of the current situation but to look forward to the future with hope is a good perspective for us to have. In the song "Kum Ba Yah,"

or "Come By Here," the order of the stanzas is important. It's not someone singing, then someone praying, then someone crying. Instead, it is crying in pain, then praying to God, and then singing to the Lord in hope and trust.

As Christians we believe

in Jesus, whose life led through suffering and death but ended in resurrection. While the death of Jesus was certainly a dark time, the way Jesus faced it is filled with light. Even as Jesus looked out from the cross, he said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

After his death, two disciples of Jesus were walking back to their home in Emmaus. They were lamenting to a stranger who had joined them that Jesus, whom

(Please See Barrow Page 2)

Friends remain with us forever

By **CAROLYN PHILLIPS**
Community Coordinator

Our families give us life, nurture us, raise us, are always there for us and even when they are gone, they remain inside our hearts and minds. Sometimes in our lives, we meet other rare people who make such an impression. Some are good; some are bad and hopefully, as in all things, the good outweighs the bad.

As you read these words, someone very special may come to mind. Perhaps it is your best friend or someone who was very close as a child.

Maybe this person is a teacher. Most of us have fond memories of such a teacher who helped make us what we are today. If you're really lucky, you may have had several.

If we had personally known Jesus during his 33 years on Earth, he would have definitely been such a teacher. So it should be no surprise that many of the people who we hold in our hearts are met in and around the church. After all, Christians profess to live as Jesus lived.

If you were exceptionally blessed, you may have known someone who possessed many God-given gifts. These special people have a way of being all that; appearing larger than life and still remaining humble and loving.

Bud and Lynda Botcher are special like that. Bud has left us for a while, leading the way to where we all must go. Continue to remember Lynda in your prayers. If you are lucky enough to know people like them, you will be blessed. Like family, they remain with us forever!

De Colores!

Carolyn Phillips, Talladega 1st UMC, Walk 63, Table of Ruth

The Grapevine

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Reich

(Continued from Page 1)

diets, career, clothes, vacation, awards, money, retirement, things. Nothing really seems to make us complete.

Life is made this way. The only thing in life that truly makes us complete and whole is Jesus Christ! His crucifixion takes away our incompleteness and enables us to be what are meant to be and gives us peace.

The beauty of the Walk to Emmaus is the manner of our intentionally closer walk with God. Bud, Danny, Ray, and Charles all experienced the life empowering wholeness of Emmaus. They are now, as we each will be at our own passing, complete in Christ.

God has certainly used His beautiful instrument, Emmaus, to open our hearts and minds to His presence and calling. If the quality and depth of our earthly walk with Christ has been shaped and focused by Emmaus, then we should be determined and intentional in sponsorship and team service.

Bud, Danny, Ray, Charles, and all our beloved departed Saints certainly cheer our efforts. Our families, our churches, our communities and our world need the completing power of the Walk to Emmaus now more than ever.

Let us never tire in our enthusiasm and effort to make a difference for Christ in this great Heavenly experience!

DeColores, Philip Reich

Barrow

(Continued from Page 1)

they had hoped would be the one to redeem Israel, had been put to death. They acknowledged that some women had reported his absence from the tomb, but this had not become a belief that had been able to renew their hope. Then as they broke the bread with this stranger in their home, they lifted up their despondent eyes and were surprised to see Jesus.

Throughout history there have been persons who faced hardship but have opened their eyes to Jesus and the hope he brings. An example is William Cowper, who was born in 1731. He was the son of a clergyman in Berkhamstead, England.

He studied law and was admitted to the bar, but never practiced. He suffered depression periodically, yet he wrote many hymns of Christian faith and hope, including "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood."

He collaborated with John Newton, curate at Olney, on the famous *Olney Hymns*, a hymnal published in 1779 that included 67 of Cowper's hymns. As a poet, Cowper was considered one of the finest of his day, marking the transition from Pope to Burns and Wordsworth.

Despite his periods of depression, Cowper wrote words of light and hope and celebration like these:

"Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while she sings;

It is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings:

When comforts are declining, He grants the soul again

A season of clear shining, To cheer it after rain.

For while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

I cannot but rejoice."

May the grace of God turn our hearts to light and rejoicing.

Stradivarius violin or just a cheap fiddle?

By **RALPH BARROW**
Spiritual Director

In Washington, D.C. concerts of classical music by soloists and small groups are sometimes held in the Library of Congress. For many years these concerts featured the Budapest String Quartet and the Juilliard String Quartet.

These skilled musicians played on priceless Stradivarius instruments which did not belong to them but were the property of the Library of Congress.

When the concerts were over, the musicians returned the instruments to the custodian, who kept them at the right temperature and humidity to preserve their resonance for years to come.

Our lives are like that. They are not ours to do with as we please. They come from God. They belong to God. One day they must be returned to God, who alone can keep them for eternity.

Yet some people treat their lives as if

they were only cheap fiddles to be discarded when the concert season is over. Stradivarius would not have taken such great pains to produce matchless instruments if he expected them to be thrown away after the concert.

And God would hardly have treated each other with a distinct and unique personality if God intended us to be discarded forever at death.

In fact, the Bible says that life is not the real concert. Life is only the rehearsal, where we get ourselves in tune with God's love and will, and where we learn to play in harmony with others.

As the other instruments must be tuned to the piano's "A," so we must get in tune with God, who has sounded his "A" in the life and death of Christ. If we have not had earthly practice in learning to live in harmony with others, how can we expect to be happy in heaven where everything is motivated by love?

This year marks
Alabama
Walk To
Emmaus's
30th Anniversary

Come celebrate
God's Blessings
with us
August 10 & 11.

Upcoming Walks

| Walk | Date | Lay Director | Spiritual Director | Cluster | Board Rep |
|------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 404 | Aug. 9-12 | Tony Mize | John Simmons | Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton | Dolores Sparks |
| 405 | Sept. 6-9 | Jan Hargrove | Bob Murray | Shoals/Moulton/Athens/ Decatur | Beth Burden/ Bill Jordan |
| 406 | Sept. 20-23 | Linda McCurdy | Terry Bentley | Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb | Mark McCurdy/ Missy Bissonnette |
| 407 | Oct. 11-14 | Richard Blocker | Alan Weatherly | Hunsville/Madison | Bill Smith/ Ken Albrecht |
| 408 | Nov 1-4 | Ken Farr | TBA | Cullman/Oneonta | Dianne Herfurth/ Betty Fowler |
| 409 | Nov 29- Dec 2 | Carol Weaver | TBA | Tuscaloosa/W. Ala | Linda Godwin |

***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 405
September 6-9, 2012**

Lay Director Jan Hargrove (Perseverance)

Asst. Lay Directors Kim Henry (Priority)
Julia Pack (Fourth Day)
Julie Martin
Susan Cosby
Georgia McCaig
Lori Mills

Spiritual Director Bob Murray (Means of Grace)

Asst. Spiritual Directors Tony Jones (Prevenient Grace)
Gary Formby (Justifying Grace)
Carl Long (Sanctifying Grace)
Dudley Brock (Obstacles to Grace)

Music Brant Rutledge

Asst. Table Leaders Melissa Parks (Priesthood)
Barbara Searcy (Study)
Jenny Sims (Discipleship)
Jeanette Custer (Changing Our World)
Tami Glenn (Christian Action)
Corie Hinkle (Body of Christ)
Amanda Hargrove (Life In Piety)

Table Leaders Betty Grisham
Donna McDaniel
Lila Hollenbeck
Leasha Laster
Laura Moore
Rebecca Smith
Megan Smith

Board Rep. Beth Burden
Bill Jordan

Committees

Agape: Linda Watson 256-247-0229
Meal Service: Milton Powell 256-350-2335
Refreshments: Revonda Twesme 256-760-8210
72-Hour Prayer Vigil: Suzanne Thompson 256-353-0124
Housing: Mark Lovejoy 256-349-6005
Candlelight: Chad Bottcher 256-233-1232
Clean-up: Bill Watson 256-247-0229
Closing: Johnny Marshall 256-777-1846
Entertainment: Jamie Cosby 256-710-8296
Follow-up: Judy McKelvey 256-381-6886
Speakers' Prayer Chapel: Wanell Scott 256-740-2597
Sponsors' Hour: Fredrick Martin 256-771-0645
Worship: Betty Belue 256-383-8123
Photographer: Mitchell Stevens 256-766-3675
Humble Servant: Billy Hargrove 256-233-0936

| Name | City | Sponsor |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Natasha Tidmore | Albertville | Sammi Kirkland |
| Tammy Jackson | Alexander City | Ellen Philips |
| Jenni Strickland | Aliceville | Louis McBride |
| Sara Peebles | Aliceville | Louis McBride |
| Leslie Smith | Arab | Gail Lueker |
| Kayla Owens | Arab | Jamie Compton |
| Jan Gilbert | Arab | Wendy Zahn |
| Laura Cardwell | Birmingham | Cameron Cardwell/Chad Bottcher |
| Vanda Simmons | Birmingham | Holli Warren |
| Melissa Drake | Birmingham | Holli Warren |
| Virginia Link | Birmingham | Holli Warren |
| Rebecca Sullivan | Birmingham | Rene' Jones |
| Karla Hamby | Boaz | Shalynn Kilpatrick |
| Nikki Crochet | Boaz | Tabitha Bissonnette |
| Christine Roberts | Columbiana | Lori Carden |
| Susan Todd | Cullman | Shirley Hays |
| Laura Hallmark | Cullman | Mike Butler |
| Kerry Hanvey | Cullman | Mike Butler |
| Barbara Davis | Decatur | Servon Gilbert |
| Janice Marshall | Decatur | Servon Gilbert |
| Melissa Johnson | Flat Rock | Carrie Beard/Shirley Rossano |
| Jessica Key | Florence | Nancy McFarland |
| Gloria Scott | Florence | Sandra Burfield |
| Michelle Rush | Gadsden | Cathy Williams & Kat Maddox |
| Charlene Miller | Guntersville | Ann Marsh & Michael Marsh |
| Mary Bone | Guntersville | Shirley Chupp |
| Sharon Saylor | Guntersville | Heather Epperson |
| Stephanie Oaks | Guntersville | Sharon & Ed Oaks |
| Deanna Nicholas | Gurley | Tina White |
| Story Laurent | Hamilton | Gloria Sandlin |
| Andie Long | Hampton Cove | Darrell & Leigh Martin |
| Cindy Jackson | Hartselle | Melanie Little |
| Carol Sarrell | Heflin | Sam & Tammy Hayes |
| Felicia Veal | Hoover | Tina Nelson & Vicki Morgan |
| Lynn Thomas | Hoover | Peggy Harrison |
| Donna Payne | Huntsville | Susan Lewis |
| Heather Smith | Huntsville | Donald Beck |
| Sandy Fisher | Huntsville | Sherry Johnson |
| Cheryl Swainston | Killen | Judy Gullett |
| Pat Heath | Lincoln | Marsha Martin |
| Cathy Limbaugh | Lincoln | Marsha Martin |
| Linda Webb | Lincoln | Marsha Martin |
| Jo Ann Frazier | Madison | Pat Edwards |
| Kay Russell | Madison | Carolyn Owen |
| Nancy Wesson | Madison | Carolyn Owen |
| Sarah Martin | Moulton | Melanie Little |
| Cheyrl Waldo | Nauvoo | Carole Newman |
| Holly Prewitt | Northport | Kacie Davis |
| Suellen Tobler | Oneonta | Carol Roberts |
| Tracy Richardson | Pell City | Stephanie Sawyer |
| Angela Chapman | Pinson | Rhonda Walsh & Donna Byers |
| Michelle Sibley | Russellville | Jolene Stockton & Betty Sibley |
| Paige Cantrell | Sheffield | Bill /Anne Deegan/Debbie Shirley |
| Karen Carlee | Shelby | Ronnie Lansford |
| Jeanie Ogle | Sylacauga | Bobby & Anna McCain |
| Carolyn Gentry | Sylacauga | Kimberly Murphy /Holli Warren |
| Emily King | Tuscaloosa | Shane Spiller |
| Yvonne Evans | Tuscaloosa | Freddie & Cecilia Hammond |
| Linda Kessler | Vernon | Bonnie Thomason |

Alabama Emmaus Walk 406 September 20-23, 2012

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Lay Director | Linda McCurdy (Perseverance) |
| Asst. Lay Directors | Kay Bissonnette (Priority) Janet Hartline(Fourth Day) Pam Myrick Deborah Naugher Trish Harnen Jeanette Chastain |
| Spiritual Director | Terry Bentley Means of Grace) |
| Asst. Spiritual Directors | Ben McCurdy (Prevenient Grace) Mark Mayo (Justifying Grace) Darrell Morgan (Sanctifying Grace) Vickie Mann (Obstacles to Grace) |
| Music | Bill Treutel |
| Asst. Table Leaders | Teresa Holderfield(Priesthood) Alice Edwards (Study) Shelia Saccucci (Discipleship) Ann Seay (Changing Our World) Lisa Cronan (Christian Action) Pam Long (Body of Christ) Sandra Lowe (Life In Piety) |
| Table Leaders | Tabitha Bissonnette Gail Hiatt Dana Williams Linda Daniels Daphne Simpson Connie Kennamet Jodi Yarbrough |
| Board Rep. | Mark McCurdy Missy Bissonnette |

Committees

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Agape: | Lamar Hiatt | 256-659-6161 |
| Meal Service: | John Chastain | 256-878-3557 |
| Refreshments: | Barbara Harris | 256-582-7661 |
| 72-Hour Prayer Vigil: | Toni Dunham | 256-845-5505 |
| Housing: | Mark Bissonnette | 256-558-2127 |
| Candlelight: | Glenn Bissonnette | 256-275-4850 |
| Clean-up: | Bobby Johnson | 256-845-3469 |
| Closing: | Margaret Billingsley | 256-505-0924 |
| Entertainment: | Missy Bissonnette | 256-558-2127 |
| Follow-up: | Martha Herston | 256-630-2986 |
| Speakers' Prayer Chapel: | Bill Parker | 256-492-1745 |
| Sponsors' Hour: | Tom Billingsley | 731-415-0059 |
| Worship: | Tim Culpepper | 256-728-8567 |
| Photographer: | George Hartline | 256-630-5462 |
| Humble Servant: | Pat Wright | 256-845-5970 |

| Name | City | Sponsor |
|--------------------|---------------|---|
| Cheryl Bell | Alabaster | Rebecca Austin |
| Jennifer Ivey | Albertville | Trista DeBacker |
| Tina Bayless | Albertville | Michelle Johnston/Cyndi Brewer |
| Chantay Tharp | Albertville | Tracy Penney |
| Janet Rogers | Arab | Cathy Hallman |
| Mary Lou Reed | Arab | Regina Gregory |
| Monica Carnes | Arab | William Koch |
| Carolyn Chafin | Arab | Regina Gregory |
| Claire Jones | Athens | Kris Murphy |
| Becky Allen | Athens | Donna McDaniel |
| Tonya Daniels | Birmingham | Voncille Anger & Doris Booker |
| Mandy Dawson | Boaz | Jason Pannell & Tony Jones |
| Kelsie Falcomeni | Boaz | Kristy Falcomeni |
| Tarah Kilpatrick | Boaz | Patricia Corbin/Debby Dobbins |
| Malarie Haven | Boaz | Ginger Haven |
| Hannah Bright | Crossville | Cyndi Brewer |
| Ingeborg Frasier | Crossville | Charity Hardeman |
| Cynthia White | Cullman | Natalie Drake |
| Jaime Howard | Fayette | Dana Gilliam |
| Stephanie Thomason | Fayette | Bonnie Thomason |
| Pam Shipman | Fayette | Dana Gilliam, Mary Ham/Wade Shipman |
| Mandy Harville | Fayette | Dana Gilliam |
| Nancy Muse | Florence | Fred Mason |
| Danielle Napier | Florence | Debbie Johnson, Laura Senecal & Melanie Danielowicz |
| Aliscia Gautney | Florence | Sandra Burfield |
| Becky Berryman | Florence | Trudy Collier & Van Brown |
| Courtney Cameron | Fort Payne | Beverly Elrod |
| Janice Petrucci | Gadsden | John Farley |
| Judy Watson | Gardendale | Kathleen Drake |
| Crystal Gosa | Guin | Emily Burseson |
| Jamie Chambers | Guntersville | Beverly Simpson |
| Jill Bailey Hoggle | Guntersville | Steve Hoggle |
| Sonya Watson | Guntersville | Amy Sims |
| Stephanie Clark | Hamilton | Jaime Rickert |
| Leslie Brasseal | Hamilton | Alisa Robinson |
| Sherry Carroll | Hampton Cove | Sandra Ingram & Alison Smith |
| Whitney Glover | Hodges | Carly Hellums & Lynda Fowler |
| Beth Rogers | Huntsville | Bill Jordan |
| Leann Scheiman | Huntsville | Kay Vest |
| Lisa Lee | Huntsville | Kay Vest |
| Jennifer Brinkley | Huntsville | Leslie Comer |
| Kelly Davis | Huntsville | Ronnie Chronister |
| Kileigh Clark | Joppa | Andrea Upton & Nicole Price |
| Brenda Segroves | Madison | Albert Killen |
| Beverly Herr | Meridianville | Scott & Donna Thackerson |
| Teresa Buck | Northport | Judy Shepherd |
| Lynn Odum | Northport | Mary Emil Rushing |
| Stephanie Reid | Pinson | Julia Rudd |
| Lauren Murray | Spruce Pine | Carly Hellums & Sue Hellums |
| Jeanette Clifton | Sylacauga | Willie & Ruth Johnson |
| Becky Best | Trussville | Susan Marlow, Patsy Wilbanks & Freda Shirah |
| Cassandra Houston | Tuscaloosa | Danielle Eppes |
| Elaine Gray | Tuscaloosa | Connie Spiller |
| Karen Bownes | Tuscaloosa | Sherri Trick |
| Angela Shaw | Tuscaloosa | Mary Bendall |
| Tracy Barton | Tuscaloosa | Connie Spiller |
| Sherri Creps | Union Grove | Regina Gregory |
| Edie Foster | Winfield | Beth Morris |

The Grapevine

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

It is the
30th 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.

Tina Upton (209) for the loss of her husband **Dan Upton (255)** and **Chris Upton (299)** for the loss of his father

Harry Brown, Jr. (31), for the loss of his father, **Harry Brown, Sr. (299)** and **Harry Brown III (299)** for the loss of his grandfather
Jerry Caudle (100), for the loss of his brother, **Tom Caudle (112)**

The family of **Dot Sandlin (77)**
Larry "Bucket" Guthrie, for the loss of his mother, Jewell Freeman

Bob Sloan (293), for the loss of his father, Robert L. Sloan
Lynda Bottcher (23), for the loss of her husband, **Bud Bottcher (33)** and **Tod Bottcher (26)**, **Brett Bottcher, (38)**, **Chad Bottcher (38)**, **Beth Brennan (36)** and **Claire Mendez (121)** for the loss of their father and **Charlie Bottcher (20)** and **Ann Pipes (101)**, for the loss of their brother

Bob Alexander (219), for the loss of his brother, Gary Alexander
Patsy Killen (28), for the loss of her husband, **Danny Killen (241)** and **Jonathan Killen (327)** for the loss of his father

The family of **Wes Porter (178)**
Barbara Chenault (236), for the loss of her husband, Ray Chenault (276)

Sharon Canada (152), for the loss of her father, Charles Herbert