

# The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

Vol. 11 No. 2

April 2013

## Community Humble Servants

**Bill Smith**  
Lay Director

**D. Jonathan Watts**  
Spiritual Director

**Bill Jordan**  
Asst. Lay Director

**Paula Calhoun**  
Asst. Spiritual Director

**Carolyn Phillips**  
Community Coordinator

**Ted Hagler**  
Treasurer

**Ken Albrecht**  
Missy Bissonnette

**Marsha Blocker**

**Judy Bonds**

**Dolores Bunn**

**Sam Chuckery**

**Patricia Farr**

**Butch Fennell**

**Betty Fowler**

**Noah Funderburg**

**Linda Godwin**

**Neal Goza**

**Lori Mills**

**Angel Rait**

**Philip Reich**

**Sheilah Wiginton**  
Board Representatives

**Kim Anderson**  
Literature

**Neil Odom**  
Supplies

**Jackie Mize**  
Community Agape

**Dan Bell**  
Name Tags

## Communion serves as sacred moment

By **BILL SMITH**  
Lay Director

“The body of Christ, given for you.

The Blood of Christ, given for you.”

These are powerful words. Words that represent the foundation of our Christian belief. Words spoken during the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

I am sure everyone in our Community will agree with the above statement. Yet, we seem to be at two different ends of the spectrum when it comes to our behavior during Holy Communion. Some people feel it is a very sacred time, a time to be quiet, to be still and to contemplate the awesome gift of Christ laying down his life for us.

They feel this is a time to ponder the symbols of the bread and the juice, to feel the presence of Christ as we symbolically take him into our body. An occasion to remember the times we

**“For those who desire to use communion to meet and greet, to whisper good tidings; hold your exuberance in check.”**

have felt close to Christ and the times when our actions or non-actions must have disappointed him. Most importantly a time to gird ourselves up and determine to go forth a better person, a person more worthy to be called Christian.

For this group the entire Communion Service is a Holy and Sanctified Time. Their desire is that we should devote ourselves to silent prayer from the beginning until the last person has been served and the dismissal blessing has been spoken.

It seems there is another school of thought which adheres to the fundamental principle that the Lord's Supper is a joyous occasion. They maintain this is a prelude to the resurrection, an occasion to meet and greet and

whisper good tidings.

The assumption must be that the Lord is with us, and we should not contain our joy at His presence, but celebrate our feeling of forgiveness and acceptance. They gather at His knee as His children with great excitement and amazement at His unrestricted love. They experience freedom and redemption. They embrace the Holy Spirit as their guide and shield. This enables them to go out into the world and spread the good news that God is Love.

The majority of us would place ourselves somewhere between these two concepts of appropriate behavior as we receive communion. We don't necessarily want to pretend to

**(Please See Smith Page 6)**

## A voice was heard in Ramah

By **D. Jonathan Watts**  
Spiritual Director

I have found myself in sitting in a chair I had hoped to never sit in again. I sat in this chair when a bomb exploded outside a Federal Building and lives of the innocent were lost.

I found myself sitting in this chair when two students entered the Columbine High School targeting students, who had done them no harm, and we experienced the loss of the innocent.

I fell into this chair on 9/11, and after the shooting of United States Representative where six died and 13 other people were wounded. And again with the horror of a roll-playing individual who carried out a slaughter in a Denver theater. Then the unthinkable as one entered an elementary school and the innocents of an entire class

lost.

And now, in what was to be a moment of monumental glory for many went from sunshine to deep darkness with a loud explosion and the injury and loss of the innocents.

As tears flow down our cheeks and our prayers are only sobs of despair, I am reminded of the story in Matthew as Herod charged his soldiers to slay the children in Bethlehem.

The Gospel writer used the words of the prophet to bring a true reality to the moment. *“Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by through the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachael weeping for her children; she*

**(Please See Watts Page 2)**

## Watts

(Continued from Page 1)

*refused to be consoled, because they were no more.*” (Matthew 3:17-18) Many refer to this story as “The Slaughter of the Innocent.”

As we shift from having our head in our hands and the glancing up in disbelief at the images now before us in high-definition, the question which keeps going through our head is “Why? Why did this have to happen? Why do the innocent have to die at the hand of someone so heartless? Lord, help us understand!”

I teach a course in ethics to college-age students. Many are at the age of the formation of the beliefs and standards which will carry them through the rest of their lives.

I challenge them to think – really think. And not only that, but to know why it is that they believe what they believe. In the first lecture and in the last lecture of the course I make this statement: “May the words ‘Just because’ never pass your lips.” If you take a stand for something or against something, know why you believe that way.

These recent events place us in that uncomfortable chair where we do not have an answer. We are not able to articulate a why or because.

We find ourselves in the place the ancient Jewish people found themselves - in the place of despair. Read the Psalms and you will hear the echo of our own voices in their painful cries. “*O Lord, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles*” (Psalm 88:1-3a) Or, in the painful cry from the cross, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” (Matthew 27:46b)

No, we cannot utter “just because” because there is no reasonable explanation. There is no offering of understanding. There is no comforting as we too have lost the innocent.

We simply offer up a constant, one word prayer, “Why” with its repetitive echo “I don’t know.” In the silence we recall the words in Romans: “*for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.*” (Romans 8:26)

And so I slump in that chair once again and the only thing that brings me comfort are the words of Jesus – “*I am with you.*”

With a broken heart I say to you, DeColores.  
Jonathan

### *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).

## Warning: *Bind Us Together* may be a health hazardous

By KENALBRECHT  
NCA Emmaus Walk #81

Many Emmaus gatherings end with the traditional formation of a circle and singing of *Bind Us Together*. I’m certain only the best of intentions are behind this tradition, but we are faced with decisions that, if not made judiciously, may very well lead to mayhem and disaster!

As we first make the circle, we must decide what handclasp to employ. I myself prefer the overhand grip and immediately attempt to foist my desire onto the person nearest me. Unfortunately, while I am so engaged, someone else inevitably sneaks up on me and imposes *their* desire on my free hand. If both my hands end up with either an overhand or an underhand grip, all is well. But if one grip is overhand and the other is underhand, when we later raise our hands, I look like a contortionist suffering from acute arthritis.

Our next decision is to remain stationary while singing, sway to the right, or sway to the left. With only these three choices available, how is it no two people in the entire circle ever move in the same direction at the same time? This is no insignificant matter because I am always positioned *exactly* where the opposing movements collide. If the people to my left are swaying to their right, then the people to my right are swaying to their left. I am in the middle, looking like Wile E. Coyote being struck between two Acme anvils.

Personally, I also make a concerted effort to avoid tall people in the circle. Now, I love folks like Fred Anderson and Mr. G, but I fear in some burst of enthusiasm, they might raise their arms in praise and lift me completely off the floor. There I would remain, suspended in the air, with my legs pumping helplessly until the song ended.

Sometimes, the circle gets a bit out of round in deference to tables, chairs, or other obstacles in the vicinity, and I end up with one arm in front of me and one arm behind. This is the absolute worst scenario and it happened to me again recently. My wife glanced in my direction just as we raised our arms and sang “I love you, Lord....” She noted a tear in my eye and was touched by the thought I had been overcome by the emotion of the moment. I *was* emotional, but honestly, the tear was the result of excruciating pain. That maneuver will put you on the ground faster than a rookie officer on *Cops!*

I’ve heard it suggested all would be fine if everyone just started the song by swaying to the right. This won’t work. It presupposes everyone will begin the song at the same time, which is infrequently the case. It also assumes we have the same sense of rhythm. Besides, the left-handed members of our Community may claim discrimination and interpret this idea as one more example of forced capitulation to a right-handed world.

Another suggestion is for everyone to observe the person directly across from them in the circle. If that person sways to your left, you sway to your right. If that person sways to your right, you sway to your left. This idea actually has merit and I encourage you to try it. Who knows what miseries you might avoid?

Please don’t misunderstand. I love the circle of friendship at the end of our Emmaus gatherings. I love singing *Bind Us Together* as a final act of praise to our Lord. But hey, people! Let’s be careful out there!

And the numbers are...

## Coordinator reports scheduled pilgrims

WALK	DATE	GENDER	SCHEDULED	INVITED	ACCEPTED
<b>2013</b>					
413	April 25-28	Men	39	39	34
414	May 2-5	Women	37	37	32
415	June 6-9	Women	47	47	4
416	Aug. 15-18	Women	17	0	0
417	Sep. 12-15	Women	2	0	0
418	Sep. 26-29	Men	21	0	0
419	Oct. 10-13	Women	4	0	0
420	Oct. 24-27	Men	0	0	0
421	Nov. 7-10	Women	1	0	0
422	Nov. 14-17	Women	0	0	0
423	Dec. 5-8	Men	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>169</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>70</b>

**Alabama Emmaus  
Community  
ANNUAL  
OVERNIGHT  
TRAINING  
EVENT  
August 16 & 17**

Friday Evening:  
Memorial Service  
& Songwriter's  
Session with Dove  
Award Winner  
*Steve Jones & Bill  
Terry*

See Page 5 for  
More  
Information!

This list shows our numbers as of April 16. It will also give you a schedule of the upcoming walks.

Our numbers are smaller, but the walks continue to be

bathed in your prayers and blessed by God.

Please if you have any questions feel free to call or email me.

May God continue to bless

our homes, churches, community and our country!

De Colores!  
Carolyn Phillips  
Talladega UMC

Walk 63, Table of Ruth

<h1>Upcoming Walks</h1>					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
414	May 2-5	Anne Parris	Dorothy Ann Webster	Huntsville/Madison	Ken Albrecht
415	June 6-9	Judy Trull	Vicki Cater	Tuscaloosa/West Alabama	Noah Funderburg
416	Aug 15-18	Lisa Holmes	Bob Muray	Cullman/Oneonta	Betty Fowler/Missy Bissonnette
417	Sept 12-15	Judi Vick	TBD	East Alabama	Butch Fennell/ Angel Rait
<b>418</b>	<b>Sept 26-29</b>	<b>Rick Pearson</b>	TBD	S Shelby	Neal Goza/ Ted Hagler

**\*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 415  
June 6-9, 2013**

Lay Director	Judy Trull (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Sandra Brasher (Priority) Erin Burns Beverly Rickert Dot Brewer (Fourth Day) Carol DuBose Jaime Rickert
Spiritual Director	Vicki Cater (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Heath Allred (Prevenient Grace) Lynn Gibson (Justifying Grace) Woody Jones (Sanctifying Grace) Judy Shepherd (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Ronnie Brasher
Asst. Table Leaders	Angie Davidson (Priesthood) Angie Baines (Study) Beth Morris (Discipleship) Kayleigh McGarity (Changing Our World) Patricia Clark (Christian Action) Cathy McNees (Body of Christ) Rachel Hewitt (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Charlotte Balentine Kathy Wright Sherry Lockhart Pam Daniel Susie Tant Sarah Rickert Nancy Burton
Board Rep.	Noah Funderburg

**Committees**

Agape:	Melissa Barnes	205-454-7402
Meal Service:	Gerri Prentice	205-333-8068
Refreshments:	Mary Ham	205-242-6120
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Cindy Collette	
Housing:	Butch Burgess	662-327-6410
Candlelight:	Ricky Myers	205-662-4756
Clean-up:	Bill Trull	205-596-3477
Closing:	Mike Nix	205-758-5248
Entertainment:	Ken Hanby	205-339-7057
Follow-up:	Linda Baines	205-364-7813
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Barbara Sims	205-252-7034
Sponsors' Hour:	David Holmes	205-405-8741
Worship:	Polly Bailey	205-553-2535
Photographer:	Ken Hanby	205-339-7057
Humble Servant:	Bill Trull	205-596-3477

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Benay Bone	Alabaster	Rejoice RG (Dana Lovelady & LaShawn Scholl)
Vickie Patterson	Albertville	Paul & Barbara Meigs
Lori Loveday	Albertville	Sammi Kirkland & Natasha Tidmore
Rhonda Springfield	Albertville	Sammi Kirkland & Natasha Tidmore
Ashley Butler	Athens	Elgin UMC RG (Sherry Belew)
Deanna Adams	Birmingham	Judy Michel
Pat Herndon	Boaz	Stephney Gregg
Jennifer Evans	Brilliant	Gerald Gann
Katherine Brannon	Calera	Kathy Braodhead & LaShawn Scholl
Peggy Moody	Calera	Rejoice RG (Dana Loveday & LaShawn Scholl)
Belinda Sherrill	Coker	Rene' Jones
Angela Harper	Columbus	Sarah & Ryan Rickert and Angie Davidson
Bettina Newton	Covington	Brandi Mizell & Holli Jackson
Nancy Muse	Florence	Fred Mason
Becky Burgess	Florence	Megan Smith
Tisha Luck	Gadsden	Bill Trull
Mary Dobbs	Geraldine	Brenda Williamson
Stephanie Oaks	Guntersville	Sharon & Ed Oaks
Bobbie Tribble	Guntersville	Paul & Barbara Meigs
Sarah Edwards	Huntsville	Leone Purser
Jackie Jones	Huntsville	Kim Posey
Kelly Davis	Huntsville	Ronnie Chronister
Belinda Butler	Killen	Elgin UMC RG (Sherry Belew)
Amy Butler	Killen	Elgin UMC RG (Sherry Belew)
Kellie Butler	Killen	Elgin UMC RG (Sherry Belew)
Dawn Butler	Killen	Elgin UMC RG (Sherry Belew)
Jeanie Simmons	Lake View	Susie Simmons
Tracy McClure	Macon	Kathy Marine
Kelly Butler	Madison	Curt Butler & John Ryberg
Courtney Boyll	Moulton	Kay Seale & Nancy Pinion
Jo Ann Medendorp	Moulton	Bobbi Shelton
Janice Nelson	North Lauderdale	Elise Brasseale
Gail Calloway	Northport	Tinia & Joel McLaughlin
Monica Bush	Northport	TLC Reunion Group (Tinia McLaughlin)
Courtney Vincent	Oneonta	Julia Rudd
Kim Prater	Piedmont	Rhonda De Haven
Kathy Jackson	Pinson	Amanda Hunt
Dixie Butler	Rogersville	Elgin UMC RG (Sherry Belew)
Jennifer Rich	Springville	Amanda Hunt
Lauren Murray	Spruce Pine	Carly Hellums & Sue Hellums
Jeanie Ogle	Sylacauga	Bobby & Anna McCain
Villa Wright	Sylacauga	Connie Wright
Ann Thorn	Trussville	Patsy Wilbanks & Becky Best
Angela Shaw	Tuscaloosa	Mary Bendall
Cassandra Houston	Tuscaloosa	Danielle Eppes
Grace Kennington	Tuscumbia	Lori Mills



**Alabama Emmaus Walk 416  
August 15-18, 2013**

Lay Director	Lisa Holmes (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Tina Holcombe (Priority) Judy Bonds (Fourth Day) Emilie Sims Rita Speegle Sandra Sloan Shirley Hayes
Spiritual Director	Bob Murray (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	TBD (Prevenient Grace) TBD (Justifying Grace) TBD (Sanctifying Grace) TBD (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bob Bentley
Asst. Table Leaders	Denise Nails (Priesthood) Joyce Doak (Study) Fran Knight (Discipleship) Donna Dutton (Changing Our World) Kay Phillips (Christian Action) Sally Cofield (Body of Christ) Diane Lyrene(Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Pam Buttram Taleah Shelnut Francis Brock Marsha Hamilton Sara Manney Brandi Cheatham Carole Garrett
Board Rep.	Betty Fowler/Missy Bissonnette
<b>Committees</b>	
Agape:	Stephanie Wright 256-737-7454
Meal Service:	Diane Herfurth 256-734-0300
Refreshments:	Rita Presto 256-739-3198
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Wendall Copeland 256-734-1135
Housing:	Jim Sims 205-274-2133
Candlelight:	Bob Coburn 205-274-0066
Clean-up:	Johnathan Shelnut 256-531-3237
Closing:	Bob Cofield 205-274-8033
Entertainment:	George Lyrene 256-739-0815
Follow-up:	Scott Brock 256-531-6771
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jane Sims 205-274-7302
Sponsors' Hour:	Charlie Herfurth 256-734-0300
Worship:	Tabitha Bissonnette 256-506-5208
Photographer:	Kim Priest 256-708-3973
Humble Servant:	Mark Holmes 256-507-1619

Name	City	Sponsor
Beth Rhodarmer	Albertville	Sammi Kirkland & Natasha Tidmore
Becky Hawkins	Arab	Sandra Hill & Amanda Pittman
Kari Salers	Boaz	House of Bread RG (Glenda Kilpatrick)
Kellie Carlee	Calera	Kathy Broadhead & LaShawn Scholl
Donna Hendrix	Crossville	Tammie Austin
Cynthia White	Cullman	Natalie Drake
Tesha Bolling	Fayette	Beth Morris & Edie Foster
Jan Hannah	Florence	Sheila Pierce & Sheila Jackson
Heather Hendrix	Florence	John Hopson
Charlotte Currier	Hayden	Nella & Ed McGraw
Donna Baccus	Hokes Bluff	Tina Williams
Leah Brambach	Huntsville	Stacy Hedden & Missy Frazier
Mary Beth Pendley	Huntsville	Susan Lewis, Lynne Fortner, Penny Sumners & Judy Wilson
Teresa Harper	Lynn	Carole Newman & Roger Watkins
Michelle Yeager	Northport	Nita Hallman
Tammy McDonald	Sylacauga	Holly How & Anne Gray
Miaomiao Pang	Tuscaloosa	Ken & Karen Worley



**Alabama Emmaus Community  
ANNUAL OVERNIGHT TRAINING  
EVENT  
August 16 & 17**

· Friday Evening: Memorial Service &  
**Songwriter's Session with Dove Award  
Winner Steve Jones & Bill Terry**

- Great music, singing & training
- Cluster ideas for growth

**Registration deadline:  
August 11, 2013**

**THE PLACE FOR YOU TO BE!**

## *The Grapevine*

P.O. Box 1216  
Talladega, AL 35161

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Gadsden, AL  
Permit No. 180

---

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

---

## Smith

(Continued from Page 1)

be more holy than we really are. Yet, the meet and greet atmosphere is not only too casual, it is disturbing to many in attendance.

After all, we are recreating in our minds and in our hearts the night on which Christ began the process of laying down his life for us.

Let us not forget the powerful example Christ set for us regarding servant hood when He humbly washed the Disciples feet. As servants we cannot be haughty and demanding. As servants there is no possibility we can require everyone to conform to our way of thinking or doing.

Also, servants cannot carry on their own business during God's time. We must be respectful of the desires, needs and customs of our Christian brothers and sisters.

Even though we come to the table of Christ from different

backgrounds and different mores, our goal is the same: to Worship God and be found pleasing in his sight. We should come in a spirit of charity and cooperation.

Candlelight is a grand event for the Emmaus Community.

It is a time for celebrating the love of God, a time to share the experience of our Pilgrims and to bolster them for what is to come. Communion is the final thing just before we line up for the arrival of the Pilgrims.

Our excitement of the coming event should not overshadow our reverence for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For those who desire to use communion to meet and greet, to whisper good tidings; hold your exuberance in check. There is a time set aside after Candlelight at the reception across the way for greetings friends and acquaintances.

## *Praying for You*

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

**Deborah Whitten (214)**, for the loss of her husband, **Michael Whitten (227)**

**Shari Calloway (B'ham Emmaus 27)**, for the loss of her mother, **Bettie Jackson (234)**

**Ellen Philips (121)**, for the loss of her mother, Betty Jewell.

**Lynn Commander (114)**, for the loss of her daughter, Beth Commander Berry.

**Dawson "Bubba" Holman (155)**, for the loss of his sister, Janie Holman Price, and his father, Dawson Holman, Sr.

The family of **Becky Wilson**

**George Scott (NAS)** for the loss of his step-father, **James Ridge (NAS)** and **George IV (7: E)**, **Michael (3)**, and **Michelle Scott Johnson (17)** for the loss of their grandfather