

Alabama Emmaus Community News

# The Grapevine

Vol. 11 No. 4

August 2013

## Community Humble Servants

**Bill Smith**  
Lay Director

**Paula Calhoun**  
Spiritual Director

**Bill Jordan**  
Asst. Lay Director

**Calvin Havens**  
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

## Christ calls us to him in many ways

By **BILL SMITH**  
Lay Director

Then the righteous will answer him. "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." *Matthew 25:37-40*

Wow! If you did it to the least of these, you did it to me. In this success orientated society which we live it is sometimes hard for us to look at the less fortunate and see Jesus in them. We want to know important people and be associated with them. I think most of us have been at gatherings and meet someone we did not know. It would not be long into the conversation before we would be asking what they did for a living or where they lived. The information we would really be seeking was, "are you in the segment of society that warrants me spending time with you?" I like to think I have moved beyond that mentality and some days I have. But, most days I am a product of society and judge people by their financial success, social standing or general appearance.

Christ calls us to see him in everyone we come in contact with. He calls us to look beyond their faults and see the good, to look beyond their worldly goods and see their worth as children of God. When we do that we are sometimes surprised by the exterior of a person verses their abilities and insight. We all need to be more cognizant of the fact that where we end up in life has a great deal to do with where we started. Only God can judge a person's true worth

I was once watching a big burley man in the construction trade. He was operating a back hoe, digging a basement and foundation for an extension onto a house. Suddenly he stopped the machine, climbed down from it and jumped into the hole he was in the process of creating. Very tenderly he lifted out a baby bird and set it on the side of the hole. I suppose he had seen it flutter into his work site from a nearby tree. Obviously the bird had been frozen with fear. The man knew one more scoop of his shovel may have killed it. He then climbed out of the hole, caught the little bird as it was hopping around and carried it to a safe place on the property. Then he climbed back into his machine and resumed work. The man had no idea I was watching from a nearby window.

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## God writes straight with *crooked* lines

By **PAULACALHOUN**  
Spiritual Director

When I accepted the invitation and call to serve the Alabama Walk to Emmaus community, I knew that Dr. Jonathan Watts would be the Spiritual Director before me. Jonathan is a true leader with knowledge and wisdom; gifted and skilled, Jonathan is a teacher and preacher of the highest order. Now, he would not like me saying any of this, but I want to begin here: with gratitude to the faithful ser-

vant who came before and prepared the way.

Many of you need no warning: I am not a Jonathan Watts! But having been on the road for a while, I can finally pray: "God, I don't know what you were (what you are) thinking, but I trust your plan—even when I cannot see or fully understand it, yet!" Perhaps a quote hanging on my office wall says it better: "God writes straight with crooked lines." I believe that God has written or drawn the lines that bring us together in the

Emmaus community. Each of us has experienced the mysterious presence of Jesus on the road, Jesus showing up in creative, (only God could have planned this!) ways. And that makes us all kin, the body of Christ, one in the Holy Spirit for our Fourth day!

Jonathan, thank you for going before. Community, thank you for your acceptance and welcome. Jesus, thank you for being with us on the road and at your Table!  
DeColores, Paula

## God of Comfort!

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS  
Community Coordinator

This is such a busy time of the year. At our house we are enjoying our grandchildren before they start back to school, harvesting the wonderful vegetables from David's garden and preparing for football season. These are all wonderful things for me. We have always heard that "God is in everything." The time we have each and every day should include knowing that without Him nothing worthwhile would be possible. We have watched our grandchildren grow up so fast. Tim and Michelle have worked hard to raise them in the faith. They have not always had easy times, but with their parents guiding them, they are learning to rely on God. God's sun has ripened those tomatoes, made those peppers hot and grown that okra into tasty morsels for our table. God's son has ripened these children and is raising them up to take their place in His kingdom.

I have often wondered how someone who goes through a personal tragedy and has no relationship with God makes it. There is a lot of tragedy in this world. Sickness, accidents, crime, death, war, and natural disasters. Most of these things are beyond our control and there is very little we can do about any of it. I am saddened and sometimes outraged whenever I watch TV news. The negative events reported with such regularity and fanfare make me think this world can't endure. God alone gives us the strength to carry on in the face of it all. He is that strong rock that holds us up through good times and bad.

Even leaning on God's strong arm, it is often difficult to face some days. I heard someone once say that if he started his day with God the day went better. This is something I have tried to do myself. People who don't look to God for strength and comfort must really suffer when bad things happen to them. They must experience terrible emotional pain and emptiness, which is made even worse without the promise and healing of God's grace.

We all know people like this. If we don't share God's love and grace with them, who will?

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." ~2 Corinthians 1:3-4

**De Colores!**  
Carolyn

### *The Grapevine*

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## We are not *ever* alone, even when we felt it

By KEN FARR  
Walk 157

Have you ever felt alone - not lonely - alone? That feeling of complete isolation from family, friends, co-workers, even God. Isolation driven by an indiscretion, abuse, addiction, failure, heart-break, hurt, guilt, shame and the list could go on and on. Any one of these is enough to cripple our spirit, drown the happiness in our lives and make us believe we are beyond help. In an effort to make sense of our shattered life, we bury our problem(s) deep within us, hoping no one will know, no one will see the scars. No one will understand, how can I explain this to my family, what will my friends think of me, will my church family still accept me, will God still love me? So we bury it deep inside hoping the scars will eventually go away. (Good luck with this idea. I tried it, and it did not work.)

One day we find ourselves participating in an Emmaus Walk. We sit at our table listening as a speaker shares some of the same wounds we have struggled with for so long. How can someone share so openly about a wound that you have tried to keep hidden? Does someone know my secret? How did they find out? Is this talk just for me? (The Holy Spirit is amazing).

Perhaps you have been asked to present a talk. You struggle with writing the talk; it just will not come together. The Holy Spirit is urging you to share that deep dark secret, that wound that has remained hidden. Have you ever said, "I can't share that, it's too personal, it hurts to even think about it, no one knows about my secret, what will everyone think? I can't." Yes you can! With the power of the Holy Spirit moving in you, the talk is written, including all the "stuff" you wanted to keep buried. The talk is presented, and - wow - someone with tears in their eyes and a new found happiness in their heart is thanking you because they realized someone does understand and they are no longer alone!

In both cases, lives are touched, hearts are changed, and the wounds so long hidden begin to heal. It is amazing that all of this is shared with people we have just met. In a room full of strangers, we are able to share our deepest pain... pain we have hidden deep inside for a long time. The weight is lifted and joy returns.

Those strangers become more than our "new best friends". Bonds of friendship which will last a lifetime are formed. All we have to do is be willing to share our story!

Well, the Emmaus weekend ends and we return home. Our 4th days begin.

Will it be a lift up or a let down? Remember, Emmaus weekends are designed to prepare us to be better servants for our family, community, and church. Wait, you really don't expect me to go back and actually share my story (pain and anguish included) with people who know me, work with me, and share a pew with me? I have kept this hidden, buried deep inside. They have no idea. What will everyone think of me? (Sound familiar?) What if that rude relative, pesky neighbor, pain in the neck co-worker, or pew sharing friend is the one person who needs to hear your

**(Please See Farr Page 3)**

# Ted Hagler accepts international position

By PHILIPREICH  
**Immediate Past Community Lay Director**

For the first time, the Alabama Emmaus Community will have a voice in policy decisions for Emmaus and Chrysalis Worldwide. Ted Hagler, Treasurer for the Alabama Emmaus Community, has recently accepted a position on the all-important International Advisory Council. The International Advisory Council is composed of 60 persons and is the governing body for Emmaus, with representatives from all over the world. Any requested change to any aspect of Emmaus or Chrysalis must come through this committee. Ted will serve a term of three years, and the committee will hold its next meeting in Nashville, TN, on Oct. 17-19.

Fred Watson, Regional Leader of the Southeast region of the

Walk to Emmaus, The Upper Room, requested a nominee from the Board of Directors of the Alabama Emmaus Community, as he believed that the Alabama community should have representation and a voice on the Council. Ted Hagler, who has served the community for over 20 years as Treasurer, was the unanimous choice of the Alabama Emmaus Board. This will mark the first time that our community will have representation on this body. The Alabama Emmaus Community will now have a direct link to the Emmaus experience worldwide.

God does indeed work in many strange and wonderful ways! For a number of years, there have been differences of opinion be-

**(Please See Hagler Page 5)**

# Farr

**(Continued from Page 2)**

story? Are they feeling like no one would understand? What would everyone think of me? Are they feeling alone?

We will, at some point in our life, find ourselves on unfamiliar ground by reason of a lost job - change of employment - a critical illness or injury - the loss of a beloved family member or friend. Those things which used to seem so normal, so familiar, and so expected will be gone. We will be forced to face those wounds we have kept buried so long.

The good news is that it is okay! Perhaps unfamiliar ground is the place God can reach us and by His grace, meet our needs and enable us to come closer to Him.

How wonderful that God always meets us at the point of our need and never allows us to experience more than we can bear. It is on unfamiliar ground that God will reveal to us those special truths that we need to hear to bring reassurance and peace to heal those wounds we have buried.

We all have a story. Each story will have mountain tops and valleys, tears and laughter, pain and joy. While each story is unique, we all share some of the same wounds. Each story has been crafted by the Creator and redeemed by our Savior. Alone - **NEVER!**  
 DeColores! Ken Farr Walk 157

Upcoming Walks					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
417	Sept 12-15	Judi Vick	Johnny Jordan	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
419	Oct 10-13	Linda Brocato	TBD	Shoals/Moulton/ Athens/Decatur	Lori Mills/Bill Jordan
<b>420</b>	<b>Oct 24-27</b>	<b>Jimmy Gregg</b>	Tim Alexander	Franklin/Hamilton/ Haleyville	Sheilah Wiginton/ Patricia Farr
421	Nov 7-10	Alice Edwards	TBD	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Sam Chuckery/Judy Bonds
<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 419  
October 10-13, 2013**

Lay Director	Linda Brocato (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Kay Davis(Priority) Kim Henry (Fourth Day) Mary Young Revonda Twesme Kaye Mason Lynda Bottcher
Spiritual Director	Zeke Haselden (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Linda Williamson (Prevenient Grace) Bob Murray (Justifying Grace) Bob Gunn (Sanctifying Grace) Eric Brown (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Wannell Scott (Priesthood) Donna McDaniel (Study) Susan Borden (Discipleship) Linda Sledge (Changing Our World) Lila Hollenbeck (Christian Action) Megan Smith (Body of Christ) Rosemary Lewey (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Nan Gardiner Louise Taylor Patricia Jester Brooks Coley Beth Wilcoxson Anna Clem Liese Sasser
Board Rep.	Bill Jordan, Lori Mills

**Committees**

Agape:	Beth Burden	256-303-5539
Meal Service:	Sandra Burfield	256-577-0867
Refreshments:	Barbara Chenault	256-476-0116
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Leasha Laster	256-810-0899
Housing:	Mark Lovejoy	256-764-0431
Candlelight:	Heather Bond	256-366-6460
Clean-up:	Scott Hargrove	256-509-3787
Closing:	Gil Griggs	256-767-1254
Entertainment:	Jimmy Gardiner	256-383-1339
Follow-up:	Judy McKelvey	256-366-1148
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Sherry Belew	256-247-5835
Sponsors' Hour:	Frederick Martin	256-771-0645
Worship:	Jan Hargrove	256-233-0936
Photographer:	Mitchell Stevens	256-766-3675
Humble Servant:	Marshall Lewey	256-974-1522

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Pam Hayes	Adamsville	Sherri Goolsby & Debra Teague
Laura Cardwell	Birmingham	Cameron Cardwell & Chad Bottcher
Lindsey Griggs	Boaz	Mt. Vernon E's (Don & Pam Lang)
Holly Boatright	Cullman	Frances Brock & Kerry Hanvey
Sherry Dillard	Cullman	Frances Brock & Kerry Hanvey
Cathy Calvert	Cullman	Frances Brock & Kerry Hanvey
Angie Terry	Florence	Megan Smith
Janice Alcorn	Florence	Grace Anderson
Ann Thomas	Gadsden	Cindy Cunningham
Wendy Wilburn	Gordo	Polly Bailey
Jane Holston	Helena	Patty Crauswell
Vicki LeFevre	Huntsville	Norma Westmeyer & Treva Whitmore
Miranda Uselton	Huntsville	Sherry Johnson & Sandy Fisher
Heather Thacker	Huntsville	Mary Trimm
Jayne Bentley	Muscle Shoals	Donna Cook
Linda Pittman	Muscle Shoals	Georgia McCaig
Valleri Zeanah	Oneonta	Rhonda Teal
Angie Simonetti	Oneonta	Rhonda Teal
Wendy Moran	Springville	Joyce Simonson
Tammy McDonald	Sylacauga	Holly How & Anne Gray
Heather Bennett	Trussville	Amanda & Royce Hunt
Elizabeth Alter	Tuscaloosa	Leah Alexander & Paula Marques
Norma Lemley	Tuscaloosa	Caroline Smith

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 420  
October 24-27, 2013**

Lay Director	Jimmy Gregg (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Lee Page (Priority) Mike Shotts (Fourth Day) Larry Norris Buddy Purdue Rick Hall David McNutt
Spiritual Director	Tim Alexander (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Jeff Armbruster (Prevenient Grace) Gerald Gann (Justifying Grace) Jeff Fleming (Sanctifying Grace) Scott Ward (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Shelia Jones
Asst. Table Leaders	Paul Roberts (Priesthood) Charlie McAfee (Study) John Davidson (Discipleship) Bobby Masdon (Changing Our World) Steward Ozbirn (Christian Action) Kevin Posey (Body of Christ) Brent Hellums (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Jerry Gann Paul Huffman Jeremy Roberts Dennis Upchurch Tim Kilpatrick Rocky Stone Jeff Bowling
Board Rep.	Sheilah Wiginton, Patricia Farr

**Committees**

Agape:	Sue Hellums	256-668-2257
Meal Service:	Ronald Crumpton	205-486-3261
Refreshments:	Joan Cleveland	256-810-0639
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Linda Alldredge	205-468-2347
Housing:	Jennifer Swinney	256-627-0731
Candlelight:	Chris Nurcham	256-577-3993
Clean-up:	Ken Farr	256-322-3864
Closing:	Heather Mitchell	256-810-9696
Entertainment:	George Childree	205-495-2012
Follow-up:	Beth Riggs	205-921-3098
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jan Page	256-356-9946
Sponsors' Hour:	Jerry Howell	205-486-4108
Worship:	Terri Alexander	205-468-3569
Photographer:	Debbie Wood	205-486-4259
Humble Servant:	Willa Dean Gregg	205-412-8975
	Ken Farr	256-332-3864

Name	City	Sponsor
Charles Rainwater	Albertville	James Dennis Ryan
Scott Sanderson	Columbus	Todd Gibson
Brandon Price	Decatur	Charles Langham
Devin Goins	Florence	Micah Booth
Adam Hobson	Helena	John Harpole
Preston Augustus	Huntsville	Apprentice Angels RG (Dee Ann Creel)
Paul Lott	Mt. Hope	James Pinion
Josh Kelley	Muscle Shoals	Bill Gough & Bonnie Aultman
Lee Alexander	Oneonta	Mary Jim & Charlie Bottcher
Jonathan McIlwaine	Pinson	Terry Walker
Bob Dyer	Pinson	Phil Stewart
Jeff Frame	Red Bay	Susan Ledbetter
Andrew Faucett	Satsuma	Sammie Faucett
Skipperm Vines	Trussville	Teann Yeager

## Hagler

(Continued from Page 3)

tween the Walk to Emmaus, The Upper Room and the Alabama Emmaus Community Board of Directors, as to protocol for specific aspects of the actual Emmaus weekend experience. Fred Watson visited Camp Sumatanga some two years ago for our annual overnight training event, where he met and was introduced to those in attendance by Ted Hagler. Fred had become familiar with the training of team members and the conduct of Walks by the Alabama Emmaus Community.

Upon first entering Camp Sumatanga in 2011, Fred expressed that he could feel that he was on holy ground. On several occasions, during the past two years, he has suggested that other Emmaus communities conduct Walks in the manner of the Alabama Emmaus Community. Our community is indeed honored to have Ted Hagler serve as our representative on the Council, and we truly appreciate the insight and leadership of Mr. Fred Watson.

## Alabama Emmaus Walk 421 November 7-10, 2013

Lay Director	Alice Edwards (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Linda Bouldin Pam Myrick Teresa Holderfield Debra Baker Ann Frasier Rebecca Killebrew
Spiritual Director	Mark Adams
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Gary McRae Deborah Moon Daniel Pope Mark Mayo
Music	Bill Treutel
Asst. Table Leaders	Vivian McRae Misy Bissonnette Judy Bailey Gloria McKee Greta Ayers Glenda Kilpatrick Judy Belitz
Table Leaders	Pam Long Karen Snider Jeanette Chastain Glenda Woods Paula Wright Linda Kirby Barbara Harris
Board Rep.	Sam Chuckery, Judy Bonds

### Committees

Agape:	Cindy McGregor
Meal Service:	Charlie Baker
Refreshments:	Beverly Simpson
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Debra Carmack
Housing:	Neesya Biddle
Candlelight:	Donald Long
Clean-up:	Jaque Clay
Closing:	Shelia Saccucci
Entertainment:	Missy Bissonnette
Follow-up:	Jay Myrick
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Connie Hannah
Sponsors' Hour:	Sharon Walker
Worship:	Tabita Bissonnette
Photographer:	Felicia Lindsay
Humble Servant:	Phillip Edwards

Name	City	Sponsor
Celia Darden	Huntsville	Rhonda Propst
Leah Brambach	Huntsville	Stacy Hedden & Missy Frazier
Courtney Vincent	Oneonta	Julia Rudd

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## Bottcher Memorial tourney set for Sept. 14 at Wheeler

The second annual Bud Bottcher Memorial Golf Tournament benefitting Camp Sumatanga will be Sat., Sept. 14, on the course at Joe Wheeler State Park near Rogersville. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the four-person scramble teams will have a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$75 per person and includes green fees, golf cart, prizes and lunch afterwards in the Pavilion. Hole sponsorship is \$100.

To download a registration form, please go to [www.shoalsemmaus.com](http://www.shoalsemmaus.com). Mail forms and payment to Linda Watson at 3372 County Road 52, Rogersville, AL 35652. You may email Linda at [lindaw810@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaw810@yahoo.com) or call (256) 627-3060 to register, volunteer, or sponsor a hole. Payment is by check or cash only. Make checks payable to Rogersville United Methodist Church with *Camp Sumatanga Golf Tournament* on the memo line. All proceeds go to Camp Sumatanga. Come and join the fellowship!



## *The Grapevine*

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

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## Smith

(Continued from Page 1)

I am convinced many a person would have just kept digging. I am sometimes surprised at our inclination to think we are too busy to stop and help someone in need. Some of us are even too busy to notice the needs of our own family.

That simple act of kindness from the man on the backhoe made a lasting impression on me. We should never be too busy to do the right thing. We should be willing to go out of our way to help even the least of God's creatures. And when we think we are doing some act of kindness in secret, someone may be watching.

I have often wondered if the little bird learned to fly before a cat found it.

Welcome Paula Calhoun,  
our new Community Spiritual Director,

**AND**

Thank You, Jonathan Watts  
for your service this past year!

## *Praying for You*

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

**Shelia Markham (295)**, for the loss of her husband,  
**John Markham (248)**

**Yvonne Funderburk (271)**, for the loss of her mother,  
Maggie Arizona Prather

**Jane Hawkins (234)**, for the loss of her son, Willie T.  
(Sonny) Hawkins and **Dona Patterson (152)** and **Kay Nail (221)**, for the loss of their brother

**Willie (302)** and **Ruth (303) Johnson**, for the loss of  
their son, Gregory Johnson

**Nedra Dearman** for the loss of her father

**Cathy McNees (179)**, for the loss of her mother, Maxine  
Byrd

The family of **Bryan Heath (360)**