

The Grapevine

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The Grapevine

December 2013

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

**Please remember
Camp Sumatanga
in your prayers,
and through your
wallets this holiday
season as the
Trustees seek to
end the year with a
balanced budget!!**

Praying for You

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

Paula Calhoun (234: FE), for the loss of her husband, **Roger Calhoun (276)**, and her mother, **Betty Paul Mitchell**

Chuck Worley (194: FE), for the loss of his mother, **Eloise Heath Worley**

Greg Cuzzort (229), for the loss of his father, **George H. Cuzzort, Jr.**

Eual Lamon (174), for the loss of his wife, **Peggy Lamon (184)**

Mary Ann Caudle (102), for the loss of her mother

Lynn Moran (111), for the loss of her mother, **Julia Kiber Ward Rotenberry.**

Linda Hunt (264), for the loss of her husband, **Robert Lanse Hunt.**

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

It's here again

Christmas season whatever we choose

By BILLSMITH
Lay Director

Here it is, that time of year again. Christmas activities are in full swing. Parties to attend, gifts to buy, and maybe travel plans to finalize. These are just a few of the many things that occupy our time and thoughts during this season. Then there is the big one. Which family member will host the big get-together? Once that has been decided, the process of getting a firm commitment from expected attendees begins. All the hustle and bustle appears endless. Yet, we wonder why it seems so difficult to keep our attention on the true meaning of Christmas.

Our church tries to keep us grounded through the celebration of Advent. Sermons and worship events are geared to turn our focus to the coming of Christ. Advent booklets are made available to aid us in daily worship. These aids suggest daily devotionals with recommended scripture readings.

An Advent wreath may be used to remind us that this is a time for Preparation, a time for Hope, a time for Joy, and a time to express our Love for Jesus Christ.

If this Advent model is followed, it will enrich the Christmas season. Folks like me take the

Advent material with good intentions of following it daily. But, life intervenes and a couple of the activities fall through the cracks. Then in another week or so we are just too busy for that stuff. Christ sees this kind of behavior from many sources.

Our Lord came into this world to show us the way to a better life. Not only has he shown the way he is here in our midst to guide and comfort us. Christmas should be that time of year when we pay special attention to the gift of love God has given to mankind. Many times I have complained about the secular world crowding out the true meaning of Christmas.

But, the secular world cannot do that if we as church going individuals stand firm in our resolve to maintain a Christian attitude toward Christmas. By putting the birth of Christ in the forefront of our festivities, we help to ground not only ourselves, but also those around us as well.

The next time I go off on a tangent about the commercialization of Christmas, maybe someone will remind me that I can control my attitude and my actions. If I allow secular activities to erode the under penning of my faith, is it the fault of society or is it my fault? This Christmas season can be whatever we choose it to be.

Where's the line to see Jesus?

By PAULACALHOUN
Spiritual Director

One of our church members introduced a new-to-me song the other day: "Where's the Line to See Jesus?" A boy four years old inspired the song when he asked the question while standing in a shopping mall observing the line to see Santa. (Google the song title for its origin and video.)

Let me say from the beginning, I have no issues with Santa—for good reasons, I believe. Santa and I have no is-

ues. But Jesus deserves a line—a long line—to see him. It was certainly that way when he walked among the people, taught and healed and showed us by example how to live. There were crowds trying to get close to him even to the point that he had to slip away in order to pray or rest.

Maybe that's one of the gifts I love about the Walk to Emmaus. We're willing to stand in line to see Jesus. We make a line to see Jesus on our way to the conference room, the chapel, the dining room, and for Holy

Communion. And we make a line to hold up the Light of Christ for all to see.

But, tell me this, is it not also good news that no one needs to stand in line to see Jesus? By the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, we go running to sit and talk with him whenever and wherever he crosses our mind. Then and there, we find he's already waiting for us—at home, in our heart. Now that I think about it, the shopping mall (Please See Calhoun Page 2)

Trees of All Kinds!

By **CAROLYN PHILLIPS**
Community Coordinator

Several years ago I was driving to Camp Sumatanga and noticed that trees on the sides of the road has been completely clear cut. Sad! It was so ugly to see the land left without any green trees as there had been in the past.

In November as I was driving to Camp I realized the trees were back. They were as green and beautiful as ever. It caused me to realize that only the God of creation was able to create something as simple and beautiful as a tree. It is just as Joyce Kilmer said, "Only God can make a tree."

This is the time of year for special trees. We will have trees of all kinds appearing in our churches, homes and communities. I recently read of someone having an upside down Christmas tree. The tree was hung upside down so that real love could fall out of it to everyone. It symbolized giving the Christmas season back to Jesus and his Upside Down Kingdom and not just giving him the leftovers.

So many times we get busy with all the holiday celebrations and end up forgetting Jesus. We should try to be less concerned with over-stuffed Christmases and more determined to give the gift of Christ. Maybe we could share the true meaning with family and friends and create memories that we can share in the years to come. We all have our traditions but we can also create new ones.

Perhaps sharing our Christmas meal with someone who does not have family, serving a meal to those less fortunate at a local soup kitchen, or just paying a homebound person a visit with a batch of cookies.

This has been a year with joys, accomplishments, troubles and tragedies for many. I pray for those who have experienced all these life-changing times.

Something I have been privileged to do this year is schedule young men on the Walk, who were being deployed to the Middle East. May we keep the men and women who are serving our country, far away from their families this year, in our prayers. What a sacrifice they make!

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas!
Carolyn

New Sumatanga Photo History

Alabama Emmaus featured in book

The Alabama Emmaus Community is featured with a dedicated chapter in a new 200-page, full-color, hardback book called "Rest and Vision," which features images and memories of the first 60 years of Camp Sumatanga.

The new 9-inch-by-12-inch coffee-table style book celebrates Sumatanga with 1,000 images and 20 written reflections on people's memories of the Camp. Each book also comes with a bonus disc that includes another 360 photos.

The Emmaus Chapter contains a piece written by Peggy Scott reflecting on the history of the Alabama Emmaus Community and its long-standing ties with Sumatanga. Peggy and her husband George were among the original attendees at Cursillo walks in Nashville, and served on the first Alabama Walk teams. George and Peggy were also able to provide rare photos of early pilgrim groups and activities for inclusion in the Emmaus chapter.

The book project began in the fall of 2011 when Rev. Mark "Bruno" Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator at Sumatanga, reviewed the camp's historical documents and photos. It was a collection that had been gathered by camp staff over the years and kept in storage.

After displaying some of the pictures around the camp, Hughes saw how much others enjoyed them. He then began collecting more photographs that have been made throughout the years at Sumatanga.

A core of seven people made up the editorial team for the
(Please See Book Page 3)

Calhoun

(Continued From Page 1)

doesn't need a line to see Jesus. But Jesus sure needs and uses his disciples—alone and in crowds—to share his presence and mission in malls and all over the world.

Friends on the Emmaus Road: keep on sharing Christ. And may the presence of Christ bless you, call you, and use you at Christmas and all through a joyful new year.

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Alabama Emmaus Office, P.O. Box 1216
Talladega, AL 35161
256.315.2346 or 256.315.2347 Fax
Web: www.AlaEmmaus.org
email: Office@AlaEmmaus.org

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

**THINKING OF A PERSON WHO
MIGHT ENJOY
AN EMMAUS WALK EXPERIENCE?**

**CONTACT CAROLYN PHILLIPS AT THE
COMMUNITY OFFICE FOR
INFORMATION, OR VISIT THE
WEBSITE!**

MOST WALKS HAVE OPENINGS SOON!

Alabama Emmaus Walk 426 March 6-9, 2014

Lay Director	Hal Mills (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Frederick Martin (Priority) Chad Bottcher (Fourth Day) Jimmy Gardiner Billy Hargrove Rod Alexander Fred Mason
Spiritual Director	David Lee (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dudley Brock (Prevenient Grace) Tony Jones (Justifying Grace) Larry Hogan (Sanctifying Grace) Tony Latham (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Jim Maynard (Priesthood) Bill Deegan (Study) Charles Woodroof (Discipleship) Leo Burnett (Changing Our World) Brant Rutledge (Christian Action) Jim Maples (Body of Christ) Bob Young (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Danny Sasser Roy Rudolph Sanders Woodroof Ronnie Chronister Mitch Dobbins Melcha Satchel Griffin Bond
Board Rep.	Lori Mills, Jan hargrove
Committees	
Agape:	Sandra Lair 256-767-5747
Meal Service:	Lile Bickley 256-974-8924
Refreshments:	Barbara Chenault 256-476-0116
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Jessica Norwood 256-702-7840
Housing:	Georgia McCaig 256-366-5949
Candlelight:	Mark Custer 256-436-0311
Clean-up:	TBD
Closing:	TBD
Entertainment:	Jamey Cosby 256-710-8296
Follow-up:	Debbie Tuten 256-710-2149
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Bob McDuff 256-764-8575
Sponsors' Hour:	Linda Sledge 256-381-3931
Worship:	Mary Pat Martin 256-232-5035
Photographer:	Mitchell Stevens 256-766-3675
Humble Servant:	Lynda Bottcher 256-381-6433

Name	City	Sponsor
Richard Payne	Albertville	Asbury UMC RG (Phillip Edwards)
Ricky Morrow	Arab	Mike & Beverly Simpson
Keith Hawkins	Arab	Joanie Reynolds
Devin Kell	Attalla	David & Lisa Socha
Harry Fulton	Brooksville	Roger Short
Jason Morgan	Cherokee	Kendrick Burns
Tyler Barnes	Coker	Jeffrey Queen
Reggie Hesterley	Cullman	Kerry Hanvey
Jeff Carter	Decatur	Dallas Culver
Tommy Glasgow	Florence	Band of Brothers RG (Donnie Armstrong)
Julian Billings	Hampton Cove	Mark Hedden
Adam Hobson	Helena	John Harpole
Robert Pendley	Huntsville	Terry Lewis
Perry Clark	Huntsville	Billy Latham
Jim Cranford	Jacksonville	Donald Douthit
James Cranford	Jacksonville	Chris Alford
Josh Kelley	Muscle Shoals	Bill Gough & Bonnie Aultman
Ben Workman	Northport	Charles Bush
Dustin Baird	Oxford	Billy Prestridge
Steve Bate	Pinson	Julia Rudd
Larry Thornton	Russellville	Ricky Hall & Jeff Bowling
John Maxwell	Tuscaloosa	Ray Hays & Bill Trick
Kenneth Green	Union Grove	Tim & Stacey White
Jacob Reno	Vina	Halltown UMC RG (Carly Hellums)

Alabama Emmaus Walk 425 February 20-23, 2014

Lay Director Teresa Harris (Perseverance)

Asst. Lay Director Roxanne Edsall (Priority)
Emily Lansford (Fourth Day)
Denise Cone
Debbie Alexander
Doris Booker
Lisa Fornwalt

Spiritual Director Sam Huffstutler (Means of Grace)

Asst. Spiritual Directors Nathan Carden (Prevenient Grace)
Carrie Kramer (Justifying Grace)
Byron Vance (Sanctifying Grace)
Lori Carden (Obstacles to Grace)

Music Charlie Beavers

Asst. Table Leaders Melissa Jarrell (Priesthood)
Julia Rudd (Study)
Dianne Fisher (Discipleship)
Amy Floyd (Changing Our World)
Lisa Elliott(Christian Action)
Kristy Akin (Body of Christ)
Andala Jones (Life In Piety)

Table Leaders Pam Townsend
Kameron Carden
Donna Ambrosius
Suzanne Frazier
Anne Simmons
Jane Hagler
Merrie Lynne Pearson

Board Rep. Neal Goza

Committees

Agape: Carol Rayfield 205-647-7052
Meal Service: Debra Fennell 256-839-5933
Refreshments: Ruth Ann Clay 205-335-3546
72-Hour Prayer Vigil: TBA
Housing: Pam Branham 205-681-1872
Candlelight: Ted Hagler 205-985-9608
Clean-up: Howard Fornwalt 256-404-8954
Closing: Dianna McQueen 205-988-3051
Entertainment: Chuck Terrell 256-267-1300
Follow-up: Linda O'Shaughnessey 205-338-1607
Speakers' Prayer Chapel: Neil Branham 205-681-1872
Speakers' Hour: Dolores Bunn 205-515-4719
Worship: Iris Bates 205-631-3558
Photographer: John Jones 205-365-4409
Humble Servant: Ronnie Harris 205-525-4850

Name	City	Sponsor
Julie Robinson	Alabaster	Stephen Robinson & Laura Jones
Miracle Vickers	Alexander City	Linda Brewer
Sue Herron	Boaz	Mt. Vernon E's (Ann Seay)
Carrie Wingfield	Cullman	Kay Parker-Phillips & Cheri Waldrop
Rachel Golden	Guntersville	Glenda, Peanut & Shalynn Kilpatrick
Jean Johnson	Hanceville	Judy Bonds
Lisa Carboni	Hoover	Kay Carboni
Courtney Snuggs	Hoover	Laura Jones
Maurie Walker	Trussville	Carol Glover



Book (Continued From Page 2)

book. They included Hughes, Laura Sisson, Anne Cain, Rev. Steve West, Kelley Clegg Neal, Melinda Adkins and Jenny Hughes.

Many individuals and ministry groups active throughout the history of the camp provided pictures, reflections and information for the book.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to support the continuing ministry of Sumatanga. A group of 33 individuals formed and invested in a corporation to fund the publishing cost. The publisher for the book is Keen Communications / Menasha Ridge Press located in Birmingham.

The books are available now and can be ordered at www.sumatanga.org, or purchased in the camp office. The cost of the book is \$40 if picked up at camp or \$48 if shipped.

**Thank you to Bill Smith
for his year of service as
the Alabama Emmaus
Community Lay Director!
We appreciate your
servant leadership!!**

<h1>Upcoming Walks</h1>					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
424	Feb 6-9	Dianne Herfurth	Deobrah Moon	Cullman/Oneonta	Judy Bonds
425	Feb 20-23	Teresa Harris	Sam Huffstutler	B'ham E & S/S Shelby	Neal Goza
426	Mar 6-9	Hal Mills	TBA	Shoals/Mounton/Athens/Decatur	Lori Mills
427	Apr 3-6	Jackie Mize	John Simmons	Franklin/Hamilton/Haleyville	Patricia Farr
428	Apr 24-27	Jim Harris	Terry Bentley	Guntersville/Marshall Cherokee-DeKalb	Sam Chuckery
429	May 1-4	Jackie Albrecht	John Tanner	Huntsville/Madison	Marsha Blocker
<p>*Men's Walk 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>					