

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

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April 2014

Community Humble Servants

Bill Jordan
Lay Director

Paula Calhoun
Spiritual Director

Lori Mills
Asst. Lay Director

Calvin Havens
Asst. Spiritual Director

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

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Lori Mills
Bruce Parris
Angel Rait
Sheila Saccucci
Mike Shotts
Bill Smith
Judy Trull
Roberta Wyckoff
Board Representatives

Kim Anderson
Literature

Jim Sims
Supplies

Megan Evans
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

There is a time for everything

By **BILL JORDAN**
Lay Director

Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens."(NIV)

Springtime is always more miraculous and astounding than I expect and remember, in the intricate details and abundance of the flowering. Wonder, amazement, awe, gratitude, butterflies, flowers and April showers are all integral to the spirituality of springtime.

As I drove to Camp Sumantanga a few weeks ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to witness, first hand, God's wonderful creation slowly coming to life. The forsythias were glorious. The cherry trees were spectacular with white, pink and red blooms. The azaleas were just starting to bloom with shades of red, pink, purple and white. The dogwoods, my favorite, dotted the landscape with their shades of pink, red, and

white so perfectly. How could anyone not know that God is responsible for this amazing beauty! Just as Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "there is a time for everything", and God's timing in displaying His beautiful creation, was absolutely perfect!

In 2014 your Alabama Emmaus board has spent many hours discussing and reflecting on sponsorship and how important it is to the future of the Emmaus community.

As I reflected on His creation and His word, I thought about sponsorship and how it should be all about God's timing not ours!

Just as the flowering comes on God's time, at just the right time, to display His beauty, sponsorship should come when God says "It's time!" Sponsorship is one of the most important jobs, if not the most important, job or responsibility we have.

"There are no 'ifs' in God's

Kingdom. His timing is perfect. His will is our hiding place. Lord Jesus, keep me in Your will! Don't let me go mad by poking about outside it."- (Corrie ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*).

Emmaus to me is all about relationships, and I am so blessed that God placed Alice Hayes in my life. She has blessed my life in many ways and one of those ways was sharing, "Keep a Serving Spirit"-Sponsorship: the most important job of all." which is found in the Upper Room handbook.

I would like to share this with you in hopes that it will help us prayerfully discern our jobs as sponsors!

May God continue to bless each of you this year and may God bless Emmaus!

DeColores and Blessings in Christ!

Bill Jordan
Alabama Emmaus Walk
302, Table of John, Florence First
United Methodist Church

Consider the cost first

Sponsoring comes down to serving

By **PAULACALHOUN**
Spiritual Director

In Romans (16.1-2), the Apostle Paul introduces Phoebe as a sister and servant in the Church with this request on her behalf: "Welcome her in the Lord in a way that is worthy of God's people, and give her whatever she needs from you, because she herself has been a sponsor of many people, myself included." (CEB) Paul's communication will help assure that Phoebe will be given hospitality by other Christians.

I'm sure you've already guessed where I'm headed—sponsoring others in their walk with

Jesus, including their experience on *The Walk to Emmaus*. It comes down to serving others as Jesus served us.

When asked to sponsor someone (or, we volunteer), maybe we should consider the cost before we say, "yes." And we need to remember: like most team members on every walk, sponsors may face surprising, even daunting challenges when the time arrives.

How about Peter's mother-in-law sick in bed; Jesus makes her well and rather than resting, she moves into the kitchen to whip up some fried chicken with mashed potatoes, gravy and

(Please See Calhoun Page 6)

God's promise to us

By **CAROLYN PHILLIPS**
Community Coordinator

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

"Hymn of Promise"

This is one of my favorite hymns. Please say the words out loud – they are beautiful! It is especially meaningful to me at this time of the year and I hope for you as well. God set the seasons as part of His plan. Spring is my favorite. The cold days of winter are coming to an end. How wonderful to look out my window at a beautiful spring day!

The signs of newness and the colors of spring are all around. This is something we are offered from God – opportunities for new beginnings.

God is all about new beginnings. He puts them in front of us every day. Every morning we have a new day and a new start. Every person we meet is a chance to make a new friend. Every obstacle we find is a new test of our patience and grace. For many of us, the Walk to Emmaus presented a powerful new beginning by re-opening our eyes and hearts to the depth of God's love for us and to the love of our fellow Christians.

If you need a renewal of your new beginning, start with prayer and a conversation with our Lord. Then follow where He leads you. Get in a reunion group. Be active in church and cluster. Teach a class. Be more generous. Sign up for a mission trip. Smile more. Reach out more. Remember that advice from the fourth day talk, "If you don't allow the love of God to flow through you to others, it will cease to flow through you at all."

Now, get out there and enjoy your new beginning!

Carolyn Phillips

Talladega 1st UMC

Walk 63, Table of Ruth

The Grapevine

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Keep A Serving Spirit

Sponsorship: The most important job of all

Sponsorship is taken for granted in most communities; it is assumed everyone knows the how and why of sponsorship. Unfortunately, sponsorship is usually not even discussed except in reference to the number of candidates signed up for a walk or a conflict over an issue like the husband/wife rule. And yet, sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus. It is more than "signing people up." The importance of an Emmaus Community being educated about the importance of good sponsorship cannot be overemphasized. The quality of sponsorship influences the Pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus movement, and the Church being affected by the Movement.

First, good sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk ever begins; the experience of the Walk for a pilgrim really begins with how we handle sponsorship.

Second, good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim. Sponsors use discernment in recruiting Pilgrims, embody the personal commitment of the community to each Pilgrim, and provide personal acts of agape on the weekend for the Pilgrims. These acts of agape include prayer, agape letters, presence at Candlelight and Closing, and follow-up.

Third, good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose—the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry. Bob Wood writes in Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey.

The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices. If the community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, then the community will be a strong vital force in the renewal movement (p. 51).

Why do we sponsor? **What is our aim?**

The aim of a sponsor should not be "to-get all my friends to go," to fill up the weekend, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. **Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will, in turn, bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.**

Celtic Spirituality

**Alabama Five Day Academy, Aug. 4-9
Sumatanga Camp & Conference Center**

Contact Kathy Norberg, 850-324-1015 or
kathy.norberg@gmail.com

Sponsored by Alabama/W. Florida & North AL
conferences with Upper Room Ministries and
Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

Sponsorship 101: Community, churches' health crucial

DID YOU KNOW THAT SPONSORSHIP IS THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB OF ALL? It truly is because it not only influences your Pilgrim, but the health of the Alabama Emmaus Community and the church(es) touched by the Emmaus movement. Had you thought of it that way?

When you consider sponsoring a person, consider also the words '*response*' and '*responsibility*'. See how they and 'sponsor' have a similar root? When you sponsor, you are taking *responsibility* for that person – and their *response* to the Emmaus experience. You will also need to consider the *response* of those close to that person. This would immediately be a spouse – whom you'd need to invite at the same time as the person you want to become a Pilgrim. There is always a *response* to that invitation. If your Pilgrim agrees to attend and is accepted, you then have a *responsibility* to that spouse and other family members during the Walk weekend. Of course you tend to the *responsibilities* of taking your Pilgrim to camp, feeding them on the way, finding their room and making their bed, helping them find and meet their roommates, and then being part

of Sponsors' Hour. **Sponsors' Hour is the time after your Pilgrim goes downstairs when you pray for him/her with their cross in your hand.** THEN your focus moves to caring for the family left at home. These *responsibilities* include, but are not limited to: making sure the family can contact you in case of emergency, offering to help with any children's activities, taking the family a meal or taking them out to eat, assuring the family that you will bring the Pilgrim home and giving an estimate of that timeframe. If there is no family left at home, *responsibilities* may include house-sitting, watering plants, tending pets, or picking up mail.

BECAUSE OF THESE *RESPONSIBILITIES*, IT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA TO ACCEPT A TEAM POSITION ON THE SAME WALK YOUR PILGRIM IS ATTENDING. If the position is on the back hall and the Pilgrim will not see you, it may be possible to work that position. You could handle Follow-Up, 72 Hour Prayer Vigil, and even Closing. But if the position is all weekend, you should then hand off the above *responsibilities* to someone who can carry them out as well as you would. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU WORK

IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM WITH YOUR PILGRIM! You cannot know this *response* in advance.

If this situation arises for you, you have choices to make. You can decline to serve as a team member on the Walk your Pilgrim is attending and devote yourself to sponsorship. Or, if it is feasible, you can have your Pilgrim re-scheduled. Please consider the *responsibility* you have to your Pilgrim – and the potential life-changing *response* to the Emmaus experience – rather than the possible convenience you may assume you'll have of being at camp all weekend as a team member. Remember – it is not about you – but it IS about the Pilgrim.

In the March 2014 meeting of the Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors, Community Lay Director Bill Jordan asked the board to let their Clusters members know that no one is to ask Community Coordinator Carolyn Phillips to assign Pilgrims to the same Walk their sponsor is working, particularly if in the Conference Room, and to limit the number of Pilgrims from the same area or church to seven. Please do your part to help our Community be in compliance with our agreement with the Upper Room.

UPCOMING WALKS

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
429	May 1-4	Jackie Albrecht	John Tanner	Huntsville/Madison	Marsha Blocker/ Bruce Parris
430	Jun 19-22	Ricky Mayers	Lyle Holland	Tuscaloosa/West Alabama	Noah Funderburg/ Judy Trull
431	Aug 14-17	Teely Samson	Chuck Worley	Cheaha/East Alabama	Angel Rait/ Roberta Wycoff
432	Sep 11-14	Jimmy Fish	TBA	Haleyville/Madison	Marsha Blocker/ Bruce Parris
433	Oct 16-19	Lynn Carmichael	Sandra Locke-Godbey	B'ham E/B'ham/Shelby	Ted Hagler/ Ronnie Harris
434	Oct 23-26	Bobbi Shelton	Dallas Culver	Shoals/Moulton/Decatur/ Athens	Lori Mills/ Jan Hargrove

***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 430
June 19-22, 2014**

Lay Director	Ricky Mayers (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Chester Norris (Priority) Jeremy Burns (Fourth Day) Paul Hass Mark Scogin Butch Burgess Mike Smith
Spiritual Director	Lyle Holland (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Lynn Gibson (Prevenient Grace) Josh Hickman (Justifying Grace) Woodie Jones (Sanctifying Grace) TBA (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Ronnie Brasher
Asst. Table Leaders	Dan Robertson (Priesthood) Paul Wilson (Study) Austin Haskew (Discipleship) Craig Shelby (Changing Our World) Joel McLaughlin (Christian Action) Matt Hammond (Body of Christ) Mike Whitten (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Charlie Quarles Don Mimbrell Bobby Jones Ryan Rickert Allen Bearden Ken Worley Dennie Gregory
Board Rep.	Noah Funderburg, Judy Trull

Committees

Agape:	Erin Burns	205-662-4734
Meal Service:	Beverly Rickert	662-425-1097
Refreshments:	Dot Brewer	205-459-5500
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Julie Thomas	205-799-6069
Housing:	Ken Hanby Sr.	205-339-7057
Candlelight:	Patricia Clark	205-556-2120
Clean-up:	Heath Allred	205-431-6384
Closing:	Lynn Gregory	205-752-3456
Entertainment:	Ken Hanby Sr.	
Follow-up:	Rene Jones	205-333-9843
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Sarah Rickert	662-574-0690
Sponsors' Hour:	Kathy Mason	662-574-6560
Worship:	Tina McLaughlin	205-799-0203
Photographer:	Ken Hanby Sr.	
Humble Servant:	Bill Trull	205-596-3477

Name	City	Sponsor
Warren Helms	Albertville	Joshua Ivey
Farrell Walker	Altoona	Barry Hallman
Jeff Dean	Arab	Beverly & Mike Simpson
Smokey Brewer	Athens	Terry Wood
Harry Fulton	Brooksville	Roger Short
Brian Jones	Crossville	Freedom Christian Fellowship (Andrea Witherow)
Dale Tankersley	Gadsden	Andrea Marbut & Shane Elmore
Wayne Maltbie	Gadsden	Steve Watson
Chris Bodine	Guntersville	Mark Bissonnette
David Kennedy	Guntersville	Jim Elliott
Sean Suttles	Huntsville	Katherine Fugate
Larry Van Meter	Langston	Terry Wood
Dennis Atchenson	Millport	Mark & Sandy Prater
Micah Walker	Mulga	Tammy Carpenter
Trent Davis	Northport	Kacie Davis
Byron Fair	Northport	Charles Bush
Teek Patnaik	Owens Cross Rds.	Spike & Rica McRoy
John May	Owens Cross Rds.	Sandra May & Chet Johnson
Shane Hardy	Pensacola	Tony Datuin
John Hammett	Piedmont	Connie Thompson
George Hartline	Scottsboro	George Hartline, Jr.
Jason Clifton	Sulligent	Andy Stidham
Ryan Nelson	Trinity	Robert & Jean Nelson
Grant Rodgers	Union Grove	Steve Hallman

Chrysalis word of thanks

Precious and Treasured Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Alabama Young Adult Chrysalis wants to thank our Emmaus community for your constant support and participation as we continue to grow and serve young adults in our area. Your support is appreciated in every avenue it is afforded, and we know that we would not be as strong or blessed as we are without you.

We could not begin to give thanks for every specific act of support that you give, but a few examples that we are exceptionally grateful for are the use of permanent Agape, the fixed financial support you donate each year, and personal support (be it Agape, serving a meal, sending a Caterpillar, scholarships, working a Journey, praying on the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil, or showing up at Candle Light).

If you are not already plugged in, we welcome you to come and be a part of Chrysalis. We serve young adults ages 18 to 24, and have four journeys each year.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Caterpillar, working a Journey, or providing support in any other way, you can visit our website for forms and upcoming Journey dates. Our website address is www.alabamayac.com.

Again, we extend our thanks to you for all of your support in the past. You truly are the Hands and Feet of Christ, and we thank you for journeying with us as we serve others. We look forward to working alongside you as we grow our community for the future.

De Colores and Fly With Christ!

Alabama Young Adult Chrysalis Community

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 431
August 14-17, 2014**

Lay Director	Teely Samson (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Denise Burford (Priority) Glenda Prestridge (Fourth Day) Susie Roush Judy Anderson Debra Fennell Patricia Booth
Spiritual Director	Chuck Worley (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	TBA (Prevenient Grace) TBA(Justifying Grace) TBA (Sanctifying Grace) TBA (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bob Bentley
Asst. Table Leaders	TBA (Priesthood) Harriett Goodwin (Study) Katrina Upchurch (Discipleship) Chrystal Smith (Changing Our World) Laura Reaves (Christian Action) TBA (Body of Christ) TBA (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Stephanie Kirby Sandra Spilman Gail Carter Dell Stone
Board Rep.	Angel Rait, Roberta Wyckoff

Committees

Agape:	Chuck Belitz	256-362-6412
Meal Service:	Sterling Rait	256-831-5097
Refreshments:	TBA	
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Cindy Worley	256-831-0984
Housing:	Joe Holliman	256-365-1442
Candlelight:	Barry Thompson	256-239-0062
Clean-up:	TBA	
Closing:	David Burford	256-831-5259
Entertainment:	TBA	
Follow-up:	Butch Fennell	256-839-5933
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Ted Anderson	256-435-6892
Sponsors' Hour:	TBA	
Worship:	Brenda Kent	256-362-3753
Photographer:	Deb Gregory	256-861-2000
Humble Servant:	Bill Prestridge	256-831-6820

Name	City	Sponsor
Pam Hayes	Adamsville	Sherri Goolsby & Debra Teague
Judy Clifton	Anniston	Sandy Felkins
Melissa Wallace	Birmingham	Melinda Gullledge & Holli Jackson
Jennifer Tidwell	Birmingham	Kathleen King
Angela Taunton	Birmingham	Cathy Brett
Amber Barnes	Coker	Tyler Barnes & Jeff Queen
Joan Aderhold	Cullman	Kay Parker-Phillips & Cheri Waldrop
Camellia Bryant	Falkville	Jill Strickland
Debbie Blackwood	Goodwater	David Bailey
Rebecca Mabe	Guntersville	Jason Mabe
Paula Wilks	Henagar	Glenn Mize
Marilyn Copeland	Hillsboro	Alicia Carpenter
Leah Brambach	Huntsville	Stacy Hedden & Missy Frazier
Robyn Sewall	Huntsville	Sandra Ingram
Sara Fry	Huntsville	Sandra Housley & Doni Harrison
Samantha Thompson	Huntsville	Katie Wilson
Audra Rutter	Huntsville	Sandra Ingram
La Doris Baugh	Huntsville	Cathy Brett
Amelia Wiley	Huntsville	Cathy Brett
Darla Burbank	Maylene	Jim McKinley & Jack Moseley
Susan Dana	Meridianville	Libby Bauer
Ellen Joyce	Owens Cross Rds.	Sandra Ingram
Kim Prater	Piedmont	Rhonda De Haven
Tammy Gaines	Piedmont	Christa Neyman & Rhonda DeHaven
Robin Harris	Pisgah	Glenn Mize
Donna Davis	Trussville	Karen Clem, Jennifer Rich, & Terry Walker
Beverly Davis	Tuscaloosa	Kathy Mason
Kim Lovell	Union Grove	Vivian McRae

The Grapevine

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Calhoun

(Continued From Page 1)

biscuits! (Luke 4: 38-39) Then, there's the night the disciples want to order pizza in for the crowd of 5,000. (*Actually, they want Jesus to send the people home!*) Jesus told his disciples to feed the people—and they do, with a young boy's supper from *Captain D's*. (Matthew 14: 13-21)

It seems evident from Jesus resurrecting Lazarus: *Jesus invites and expects our participation*. Lazarus has been dead four days. But rather than rush in, lift and carry his friend, Jesus calls him by name and tells him to come on out of there! Then he tells the folk standing around to serve Lazarus by setting him free of the cloth wrapped around him. (John 11: 1-45)

You will think of many examples better than these. But the question is: are we willing to pay the cost of discipleship involved with sponsoring others on the Emmaus road?

Prayer, conversations (with sponsors mostly listening), gathering bed linens and gifts of love and support, chauffeuring to and from, communicating with and caring for the pilgrim's family, taking the pilgrim out for a meal before and after the walk, listening as they describe their experience. And speaking of afterward—taking your pilgrim to their cluster meeting and helping them enter a reunion group.

Recently, I heard some disciples say they pay their pilgrim's way! And I've probably forgotten something, but there's a letter with information—even a book available—on sponsorship.

When we love Jesus, I guess we will give up almost anything—including *our time*—to sponsor pilgrims “in the Lord in a way that is worthy of God's people.” (Romans 16:2)

Praying for You

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

Nathan Smith (141), for the loss of his wife, Nancy Smith

Anita Hill (201), for the loss of her stepson, Jimmy Hill

The family of **Wayne Nesbitt (139)**

The family of **Rose Anne Burg (25)**

Kathy Mitchell (240), for the loss of her husband, Dean Mitchell

Cameron Dodwell (214), for the loss of her brother, Dean Mitchell

Tommy Lee (358), for the loss of his mother, Celia Lillian Lee

Debbie Chapman (Living Waters 17), for the loss of her father, Lewis Myers.