

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

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October 2014

Community Humble Servants

Bill Jordan
Lay Director

Calvin Havens
Spiritual Director

Lori Mills
Asst. Lay Director

TBA
Asst. Spiritual Director

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Community Coordinator

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Name Tags

Seeing Christ through others

By **BILL JORDAN**
Lay Director

Billy Coleman, in his book *Called to Live*, says that “each of us is called to make a difference for CHRIST, one person at a time! Our witness is a “**CALL TO LIVE**”, to allow Jesus Christ to use our life to build a bridge and walk over into the life of another.” This quote challenges us to do exactly what Christ called us to do in Matthew 28:19 when he tells us, “Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father **and** the Son **and** the Holy Spirit.”

We are called to build relationships based on the many blessing Jesus Christ has placed upon us. **RELATIONSHIPS** are essentially what life is all about, and those based on this principal, make us who we are. Remember Christ calls us to develop relationships based on **COMMITMENT**, not convenience.

Christ calls us to make commitments that are

costly requiring personal effort, time and sacrifice.

Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away that they were meant to be there, to serve some sort of purpose, teach you a lesson, or to help you figure out who you are or who you want to become.

This compares to the table assignments on the Walk to Emmaus. Do you ever get the feeling that God places you at that particular table just for you or maybe even you for them? You never know who these people may be (possibly your roommate, neighbor, coworker, long lost friend, or even a complete stranger) but when you interact with them, you know at that very moment that they will affect your life in some profound way.

The people you meet, the people who affect your life and take part in the successes and downfalls you experience, help to create our character

(Please see Jordan Page 2.)

Good to Great

Confront the brutal facts; never lose faith

By **CALVIN HAVENS**
Spiritual Director

Though written in 2001, the book *Good to Great* offered leadership principles that have helped me in my role as a pastoral leader. One concept was the Stockdale Paradox: “Confront the brutal facts, but never lose faith.”

Admiral Jim Stockdale was the highest-ranking military officer in the POW “Hanoi Hilton.” Imprisoned for eight years with no certainty he would even live or get out, he did everything possible to help fellow prisoners survive the horrors. Many did not as they could not handle the rigors and disappointments of such an ordeal.

When Jim Collins inter-

viewed Stockdale for his book he asked: “Who didn’t make it out?” His response floored Collins. “The optimists. These men thought they would get out by Christmas or Easter or Thanksgiving. And, when they didn’t they died of a broken heart.”

Then he turned and said to Collins. “You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the brutal facts of your current reality.”

I’m reminded that Jesus told Peter at Caesarea Philippi, “*You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”

The church will prevail

with us or without us. It will prevail with – or without – a denominational label.

Yet, the church as I know it is – and as you likely know it - is in huge trouble. That’s the brutal facts. Part of the genius of Emmaus is to strengthen the local church. From my perspective we need to do better. It concerns me how quickly pilgrims lose their zeal or how they make Emmaus more important than making an impact where God has planted them.

So, as the Community Spiritual Director I’m challenging this community to seek God’s Spirit for solutions. The church is at a serious crossroads in our society; ac-

(Please see Havens Page 6.)

Open the door...

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

Recently for Communion at my church the choir sang "In Remembrance of Me". It is a song with simple words that are so powerful. One line in particular for me says, "In remembrance of me open the door and let your brother in." We are not only to heal the sick and feed the poor but we are to open the door to others and let them in – whether it is a physical door to our church, a circle at our cluster meetings, or our hearts which have pushed someone away over something trivial.

**In remembrance of Me eat this bread
In remembrance of Me drink this wine
In remembrance of Me pray for the time
When God's own will is done
In remembrance of me heal the sick
In remembrance of me feed the poor
In remembrance of me open the door
And let your brother in, let him in**

It's not uncommon to hear criticism of this church or that church, that they are exclusive; their doors and hearts are not really open to others. If you don't fit in, you don't get in. We all know about that kind of church and we could all probably name a few.

But what about the Emmaus Walk? Are we truly inclusive? Who do you sponsor and invite to the walk? Is it your friends? Your Sunday school class? The choir? Do you limit this wonderful experience to the people you are close to, and can observe their joy from the weekend?

Think about that. Are there men and women in your church, who might be blessed by the Walk to Emmaus? Are there budding young leaders who could learn much from the 15 talks? Are there pillars of the church who have become burned out and desperately need the renewal of the walk? If you recognize these people, but don't know them, get to know them.

Perhaps ask your pastor to be a cosponsor. Don't exclude your brother because you don't know him well...let him in!

(Please see Phillips Page 6.)

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Jordan

(Continued From Page 1.)

and who we become. If someone hurts you, betrays you, or breaks your heart, forgive them, for they have helped you learn about trust. If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love you, but because in a way, they are teaching you to love and how to open your heart and eyes to things.

To me that is exactly what Faith feels like. It is feeling loved and loving others. It is being cared for and watched over just as our Heavenly Father loves us and joyfully, powerfully, and perfectly watched over us.

We need to have Faith in His love and share that love with the world! Matthew 5: 43-46(NLT) says it like this, ⁴³"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.

Isn't that exactly the goal of the Walk to Emmaus? This is how Stephen Bryant describes the aim of Emmaus from "What is Emmaus", published by the Upper Room in 1995. "The aim of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action-in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. The three-day Emmaus course in Christianity moves church members to new levels of openness and commitment as Disciples of Christ. People re-experience the gift of God's love and emerge from the Emmaus weekend with a desire to pass that love on to others. The three-day course strengthens persons' conscious union with Jesus Christ as the embodiment of God's grace, truth, and compassion." Prayerfully consider sponsoring someone to attend the Walk to Emmaus. Let's do as Jesus taught us and "go and make Disciples," by building up the Body of Christ, His church, through the Walk to Emmaus.

I am certainly glad that someone cared enough about me to ask me to go on my walk. I cannot imagine my life without the relationships that I have developed through the Emmaus Community! So I challenge you to make every day count!!!

Appreciate every moment and take from those moments everything that you possibly can, for you may never be able to experience it again. Talk to people that you have never talked to before, and actually listen. Share with them about Christ and how He changed your life. Share with them the great possibilities that exist through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

When they ask how you came to know Christ in a different and more intimate way, share with them the wonderful experience on your Emmaus Walk!

Tell them about the lifelong relationships you have developed, and how these relationships have strengthened your relationship with your Lord and savior Jesus Christ!

I will leave you with a favorite Corrie Ten Boom quote, "when a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy."

DeColores and Blessings in Christ!

Bill Jordan

Alabama Emmaus Walk 302;

Table of John;

Florence First United Methodist Church

Chrysalis community continues important work

Precious and Treasured Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Alabama Young Adult Chrysalis! Fall in Alabama brings pumpkins, cool weather, and piles of leaves, midterms, and football! For us, this means planning events around game day schedules (let's be real) and making sure our young adults get lots of prayers, coffee, and support.

In ministering to this group, you really have to embrace the young adult's constant state of change in this season of their lives and the year.

We remain grateful for the honor of living out the Gospel as we prepare for the upcoming YAC so that we can be the Hands and Feet of Christ, ministering peace amidst the crazy. As always we greatly value and desperately need your prayers (for our ministry and those we reach) during this time.

Remember that as you pray for us and these precious young adults, you are personally and beautifully taking Christ and His Audacious Love *to* His beloved brothers and sisters in Christ...and even more importantly to the ones He is reaching for, waiting for, and pursuing.

We rejoice that we can join with you as we make present in our communities the Kingdom of God through prayer and service!

The two upcoming Journeys are:

YAC #85 (October 31-November 2), which is a young women's Journey led by the Holy Spirit and Krissy Roberson

And

YAC #86 (February 27-March 2) which is a young men's Journey led by the Holy Spirit and Neal Brooks

As always, we welcome you to engage even deeper into the Emmaus Community and take part in Chrysalis.

You can do this by sponsoring a Caterpillar, working a Journey, sending Agape, signing up for the Prayer Vigil, bringing food (because we *never* have enough food), or providing support in any other way. You can visit our website for information at www.alabamayac.com. As always please feel free to email me personally at bgilmore@samford.edu. We look forward to serving with you in Emmaus and Chrysalis in the upcoming months!

Thank you, sweet family, for your continued support as we reach and love our communities because Christ first loved us. See you at Camp!

De Colores and Fly with Christ!
Brittany Gilmore,
Community Lay Director
Alabama Young Adult Chrysalis

**Want to be a part of something
POWERFUL?**

**Become a prayer partner on the
Sumatanga Prayer Team.**

**Contact Julianne Parris at
julianneparris@gmail.com**

UPCOMING WALKS

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
436	Nov 13-16	Laura Durbin	Melisa Saccucci	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Sheila Saccucci/Sam Chuckery
437	Dec 4-7	Polly Bailey	Nancy Cole	Tuscaloosa/W Alabama	Noah Funderburg/ Judy Trull
438	Feb 19-22	Julia Pack Young	Bob Gunn	Shoals/Moulton/ Athens/Decatur	Jan Hargrove
439	Mar 5-8	Micky Phillips	Ricky Smith	Cullman/Oneonta	Dianne Herfurth
440	Apr 9-12	Betty Hamilton	Don Cross	Cheaha/East Alabama	Roberta Wyckoff
441	Apr 23-26	John McQueen	Ron Shultz	B'ham East/B'ham South/ South Shelby	Ronnie Harris

***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 436
November 13-16, 2014**

Lay Director	Laura Durbin (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Lisa Cronan (Priority) Teresa Holderfield (Fourth Day) Sherri Watson Lisa Smith Debra Carmack Jacque Clay
Spiritual Director	Melissa Saccussi (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Vicki Mann (Prevenient Grace) TBA (Justifying Grace) Tammy Jackson (Sanctifying Grace) Rodney Gilmore (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bill Treutel
Asst. Table Leaders	Judie Beggs (Priesthood) Nancy Parker (Study) Deborah Naugher (Discipleship) Kim Gilmore (Changing Our World) Andrea Marbut (Christian Action) Judy Vick (Body of Christ) Rhonda DeHaven (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Susan Greene Andrea Witherow Cathy Williams Cat Marbut Martha Herston Sandra Turner Susan Minton
Board Reps.	Sheila Saccucci, Sam Chuckery

Committees

Agape:	Pam Myrick	256-927-5751
Meal Service:	Bob DeHaven	256-453-4640
Refreshments:	Leslie Colgrove	256-442-4652
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Linda McCurdy	256-632-2004
Housing:	Miles Greene	256-494-9510
Candlelight:	Wes Neyman	256-557-0118
Clean-up:	Justin Patterson	256-223-7984
Closing:	Scott Jones	256-442-4502
Entertainment:	Mr G Scroggin	706-776-4102
Follow-up:	Joy Ballenger	
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Terry Marbut	256-458-3746
Sponsors' Hour:	Kay Bissonnette	256-878-7809
Worship:	LouAnn Scott	205-527-7490
Photographer:	Ken Durbin	205-568-0726
Humble Servant:	Joseph Crauswell	205-832-2960

Name	City	Sponsor
Patti Vernon	Alabaster	Connie Kennamer
Elizabeth McCormick	Athens	Wednesday Night Light RG (Amanda Hargrove)
Lorinda Kirby	Cleveland	Paul Kirby
Jean Peeden	Florence	Joe Peeden & David Twesme
Elizabeth Moore	Florence	Patsy Killen
Teresa Bellenger	Fort Mill	Pam Gilliland
Gail Chesnut	Gallant	Joe Chesnut/Sherri Reynolds
Renea Bradley	Guntersville	Grant Rodgers & Beverly Simpson
Jennifer Benefield	Hazel Green	Jarod Andrews & Dale Cole
Amanda Lange	Helena	Mike Lange & Lori Carden
Janet Trucks	Hoover	Walter & Sara Bryant
Donna Himes	Hoover	Julie Ferguson
Ruth Fulmer	Huntsville	Pat McCrory
Jessica Martin	Huntsville	Sarah Smyth
Lynn Davis	Lineville	Betty Pittman
Paula Taylor	Madison	Jana Killen
Rusty Hutt	Madison	Bill & Glenna Chaffin
Linda Hatchett	Sylacauga	Dianne Wingfield
Lawanna Little	Tuscaloosa	Patricia Clark

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 437
December 4-7, 2014**

Lay Director	Polly Bailey (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Danielle Eppes (Priority) Dot Brewer (Fourth Day) Carol Weaver Kathy Mason Katie Woodward Sarah Rickert
Spiritual Director	Nancy Cole (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Sandy Felkins (Prevenient Grace) Tim Alexander (Justifying Grace) Lynn Gibson (Sanctifying Grace) Judy Shepherd (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Mike Brewer
Asst. Table Leaders	Tinia McLaughlin (Priesthood) Angie Baines (Study) Julie Thomas (Discipleship) Nancy Burton (Changing Our World) Ashley Haskew (Christian Action) Martha McDow (Body of Christ) Karen Worley (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Becky Sandel Esther Lawley Terrie Alexander Jaime Rickert Charlotte Balentine Kayleigh McGarity Angie Davidson
Board Reps.	Judy Trull, Noah Funderburg

Committees

Agape:	Betsey Hass	205-799-7727
Meal Service:	Ken Hanby	205-339-7057
Refreshments:	Mary Ham	205-242-6120
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Carol DuBose	205-695-2111
Housing:	Butch Burgess	662-327-6410
Candlelight:	Ricky Mayers	205-662-4756
Clean-up:	Ryan Rickert	662-243-2190
Closing:	Erin Burns	205-662-4734
Entertainment:	Ken Hanby	
Follow-up:	Bill Trull	205-596-3477
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Dana Gilliam	205-270-2725
Sponsors' Hour:	Mark Scogin	205-345-7699
Worship:	Holly McCollum	205-242-5966
Photographer:	Paul Hass	205-239-6749
Humble Servant:	Ryan Rickert	

Name	City	Sponsor
Jennifer Tidwell	Birmingham	Kathleen King
Ashley Chaney	Columbus	Sarah Rickert
Robin Bynum	Fyffe	Glenn Mize
Amy Seymour	Huntsville	Joan Manning
Celia Darden	Huntsville	Rhonda Propst
Darla Burbank	Maylene	Jim McKinley & Jack Moseley
Erin Steinfath	Owens Cross Rds.	Debbie Weaver
Jana Smith	Owens Cross Rds.	Sandra May, Sherry Johnson & Debbie Collins
Erica Adams	Sheffield	Grace Anderson
Donna Davis	Trussville	Karen Clem, Jennifer Rich & Terry Walker

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

Phillips

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Think about your friends who attend other churches or other denominations. Whether a person is a member of YOUR church or not should not be a barrier. Let your brothers in!

Think about those who cannot afford the cost of an Emmaus weekend.

Would you consider sponsoring a pilgrim financially? Does your church have a scholarship fund? If not, would you consider starting one? Let your brothers in!

Just follow the old, reliable rule: Talk to God about man before talking to man about God. Pray for your candidates for a while before approaching them, and listen to what God has to say. Then let your brothers in!

De Colores!
Carolyn Phillips
Talladega 1st UMC
AL Walk 63, Table of Ruth

Havens

(Continued From Page 2.)

tually losing it's influence on those that are supposed to be our greatest investments – our children and grandchildren. I invite responses to this as we seek to be empowered by God to have a new life cycle.

Decolores,
Calvin Havens

Praying for You

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

Janet Cleveland (252), for the loss of her mother

Anna McCain (211), for the loss of her husband, **Bobby McCain (212)** and **Vern Ogle (407)**, for the loss of his stepfather.

Ruth Basinger (8), for the loss of her husband, **Jim Basinger (7)**