

The Grapevine

Community Humble Servants

Bill Jordan
Lay Director

Calvin Havens
Spiritual Director

Lori Mills
Asst. Lay Director

TBA
Asst. Spiritual Director

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

Ted Hagler
Treasurer

Marsha Blocker
Judy Bonds
Sam Chuckery
Patricia Farr
Noah Funderburg

Neal Goza
Jan Hargrove
Ronnie Harris
Dianne Herfurth
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

Focus on Christ this season

By **BILL JORDAN**
Lay Director

Wow where does time go! I can hardly believe that this is my last *Grapevine* article.

As I begin to write this article, I must express my sincere gratitude to the Alabama Emmaus Community for allowing me to serve as Community Lay Director. Words cannot begin to express how wonderful this experience has been.

It has been one of the most spiritual, joyful, and fulfilling opportunities of my life. What a most humbling experience to serve this amazing community, which is an integral part of the Body of Christ. I will for-

ever cherish the friendships and relationships that I was privileged to acquire along the way with my sisters and brothers in Christ!

I must say that what I have learned through these relationships is that the relationships developed through Christ, are the most rewarding and genuine that life can offer, and for that I am truly thankful!

The Advent season is a special time, especially in the life of the church. The sanctuary is beautifully decorated with poinsettias, wreaths, and candles. The Advent candles are lit each Sunday leading to the Christmas Eve service, when the Christ

candle is lit, which is the symbol of Christ's birth and the real reason for the Advent season.

The focus of the Advent season is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But shouldn't we focus on Jesus Christ, not just during Advent, but each and every day? Shouldn't we focus on the Cross of Jesus and truly appreciate the meaning of His death that He died a sinless man to save us from our sin?

Galatians 6:14 says,"¹⁴ As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of that cross, my
(Please see Jordan Page 2.)

Avoid the frenzy of Christmas

By **CALVIN HAVENS**
Spiritual Director

Each year the pace seems to accelerate a little more! Each year the stores start their campaigns earlier. By the time you receive this newsletter you've likely be in the "frenzy of Christmas." If we are not careful, we can be pulled into this whirlwind and miss out on the joy Christmas is all about.

Without going into a litany about the demands on our time, energy, pocketbook and even souls, I'd like to suggest that we intentionally schedule one day to spend in prayer, reflection and rest. Put this day on your calendar and hold it sacred. This could make your Christmas holy, deeply meaningful, and transformational.

A comment that bothers me – and I'm hearing it more often – "I'll be so glad when Christmas is over." I want to scream "No!" Enjoy the serendipitous moments and experiences that God will bring – provided we slow down and look for them. Please avoid the tendency to attempt to do everything that we miss out on the little things and find ourselves exhausted when December

25 comes.

On a personal note: God has given a huge gift to the Alabama Emmaus Community in the person of Bill Jordan. He is our Community Lay Director and His leadership and heart has touched me deeply. What a man of God Bill Jordan is! I have enjoyed serving with him on the Board and at candlelights. As he soon takes his leave from us, I wish to pay him tribute on behalf of our entire community and say, "Thank you Bill. God is pleased with your servant's heart. Get ready for what He has in store for you ahead. The best is yet to be."

If you read this –(my guess is a few will scan) – please join me in prayer for all our upcoming walks. May lives be changed! May churches come alive as pilgrims return to infuse new energy and hope that is so desperately needed.

Also, offer a prayer for our Board as they seek to lead under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

May we all exemplify the Christ of Christmas, Calvin.

Jordan

(Continued From Page 1.)

interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died." This scripture reminds us that we should never personally take credit for anything but always give the glory to God the Father. Oswald Chambers says this about our own personal concern; "we should break away from our personal concern over our own spiritual condition, and with a completely open spirit consider the tragedy of God."

A great way to illustrate this would be our Emmaus walks. Our focus should be on the Cross of Christ and humbly and anonymously serving others. When we become distracted and lose focus, the true spiritual power of the Walk to Emmaus is lost.

My prayer for the Alabama Emmaus community in 2015 is that we focus on the Cross of Jesus and its true meaning of salvation, sanctification and healing. I pray that we can achieve this not necessarily with words but through our actions.

Through faithfully and humbling serving each other, treating each other with love and respect. I just know when we do; those pilgrims will come to know that a life in Christ is a life like no other!

My 2015 resolution for the Alabama Emmaus Community is FOCUS. Focus on the Cross of our King, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in all that we do!

Romans 8:39; "No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Merry Christmas and Happy 2015!

DeColores and Blessings in Christ!

Bill Jordan

Alabama Emmaus Walk 302; Table of John; Florence First United Methodist Church



**Merry Christmas
from your
Alabama Emmaus
Board of Directors!**

Pray for Peace on Earth

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Office, P.O. Box 1216
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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.

Blessings of family

By **CAROLYN PHILLIPS**
Community Coordinator

It's the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The kids and grandkids have come and gone. This year we have resisted the rush from Thanksgiving Day into the Christmas season and just stayed home. We are waiting for the Iron Bowl and getting ready for another superb meal of great leftovers. It's quiet and there's time to think.

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday that focuses around family. As we grow older, it has become more important and we have become more grateful. We are blessed with freedom and live in plenty. And best of all we are blessed with family.

Christmas is coming fast and despite the commercialization, it brings more blessings than headaches. It's hard to buy gifts for grown children who already have whatever they want before you even find out they wanted it. On the other hand, shopping for the grandchildren has become very easy since we started the tradition of giving them Camp Sumatanga Summer Camp every Christmas. They love it and we love giving them the Sumatanga experience.

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas are special family times. At Thanksgiving, we celebrate the American family and the beginnings of our nation. At Christmas we celebrate God's family and the gift of His Son for us. And the way we celebrate both is to gather our families together.

And there are all kinds of families. We don't all have huge "Walton" sized families. Some of our families are scattered across the country and around the world, making it difficult to get together. Blended families are common, too. There are all kinds of families.

There are many who don't have the families they expected. It is hard to overcome the stress and strife that arises and tries to divide us. As much as we try to keep the peace, sometimes the tension and grudges win. But the good news is that there are two kinds of families.

There's the one you were born into and the one which you chose and into which you were chosen. Close friends are family. In the end, family are the people you care about, who you worry about, who you want to be with, and who want to be with you.

And then there's the really good news. The best family. God's family. The family to which we all belong. The family for which Jesus was born, lived, performed miracles and died on the cross. We are all part of His family.

Share the season with acts of love and kindness. God bless us all. Amen.

Carolyn Phillips

Talladega 1st UMC

AL Walk 63, Table of Ruth

Prayer to the Holy Spirit: Fill our hearts

Since 1985 I have been involved in the Walk to Emmaus movement of the United Methodist Church.

The Cursillo movement that began in the Roman Catholic Church, in Spain in 1949. As Protestants became interested in the Cursillo, many Protestant versions began to arise. The Walk to Emmaus is simply the United Methodist version. Chrysalis is the United Methodist version for teenagers. But, there are many other Protestant versions of Cursillo as well, including: Pilgrimage (Presbyterian), Via de Christo (Lutheran), Episcopal Cursillo, Tres Dias, DeColores in Christo, etc.

It is characteristic of most of these Cursillo-type weekends that at the beginning of the several talks (traditionally called “rollos”) given on the weekend some version of the following prayer is recited by the participants:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

This is an ancient prayer. It is so ancient that no one knows who wrote it. The last part of the prayer dates back at least as far as the ninth century, since a version of it is found in the *Gregorian Sacramentary*.

The prayer falls into three distinct parts.

1. An Invitation to the Holy Spirit:

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.”

It is this phrase of the prayer, more than anything else, that

gives it the common titles “The Prayer to the Holy Spirit” or “The Holy Spirit Prayer.” Usually, prayer is addressed *to* God the Father *through* (or in the name of) the Son, *in* (or inspired by) the Holy Spirit — and this prayer is too. But, it begins with an invitation for the Spirit to inspire all of God’s faithful — and that would include the hearers of the talk. This phrase recognizes that it is the Holy Spirit that inspires Christians to pray. “

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18 NRSV). Most of all, it is the fire of love that the Holy Spirit inspires: “...*God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*” (Romans 5:5 NRSV).

2. A Bible Verse (Psalm 104:30):

“Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.”

Many people who recite this prayer do not realize that this is a Bible verse. Psalm 104 is a psalm of praise to God for God’s creation of all the earth and its creatures.

The Spirit who inspires our prayers is also the Spirit of all life. So, the invitation for the Spirit’s inspiration is enhanced by a Biblical reminder of who the Spirit is — and what the Spirit does. By the Spirit, God creates — and re-creates.

3. A Prayer:

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

This is the prayer itself. The first two parts can be seen as a

(Please See Prayer Page 6.)

UPCOMING WALKS					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
438	Feb 19-22	Julia Pack Young	Bob Gunn	Shoals/Moulton/ Athens/Decatur	Jan Hargrove
439	Mar 5-8	Mickey 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
442	May 14-17	Dot Brewer	Mark Adams	Tuscaloosa/W Alabama	Judy Trull
443	May 28-31	Fran Elmore	TBA	Marshall/Gadsden/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Sheila Saccucci
<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>					

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 438
February 19-22, 2015**

Lay Director	Julia Young (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Amanda Hargrove (Priority) Lynda Bottcher (Fourth Day) Kim Henry Julie Martin Revonda Twesme Patsy Killen
Spiritual Director	Bob Gunn (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Sammy Hayes (Prevenient Grace) Kenny Baskins (Justifying Grace) Gary Formby (Sanctifying Grace) Larry Hogan (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Wes Canestrari
Asst. Table Leaders	Corie Hinkle (Priesthood) Celia Rudolph (Study) Leise Sasser (Discipleship) Jeanette Custer (Changing Our World) Beth Burden (Christian Action) Anna Clem (Body of Christ) Mary Pat Martin (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Laura Moore Joann Campbell Mary Lee Dobbins Heidi Griffin Nan Gardiner Ellie Lovvorn Jessica Norwood
Board Rep.	Jan Hargrove

Committees

Agape:	Megan Smith	256-810-7689
Meal Service:	Betty Grisham	256-656-3980
Refreshments:	Barbara Chenault	256-476-0116
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Suzanne Thompson	256-431-4399
Housing:	Melissa Parks	256-366-5088
Candlelight:	Mark Custer	256-436-0311
Clean-up:	TBD	
Closing:	Hal Mills	256-366-7190
Entertainment:	Jamey Cosby	256-710-8296
Follow-up:	Judy McKelvey	256-627-0707
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Donna McDaniel	256-431-5008
Sponsors' Hour:	Scott Henry	256-777-6463
Worship:	Kris Murphy	256-777-0163
Photographer:	Mitchell Stevens	256-766-3675
Humble Servant:	Bob Young	256-577-2506

Name	City	Sponsor
Louise Moats	Alpine	Woni Nelson & Kim Warren
Elizabeth McCormick	Athens	Wednesday Night Light RG (Amanda Hargrove)
Carolyn Tuberville	Baileyton	Deborah Moon
Laurie Meherg	Baileyton	Deborah Moon
Diane Shepherd	Birmingham	Dorothy Walker
Christie Murchison	Birmingham	Mark & Lisa Elliott
Dot Nelson	Childersburg	Woni Nelson & Kim Warren
Michelle Williams	Cullman	Kim Hale
Gena Cox	Decatur	Betty Grisham
Teresa Vaughn	Dora	Cinda Bergsieker
Kathy Conner	Florence	David Twesme
Marsha Buttrum	Florence	David Twesme
Marcy Oberholzer	Florence	Bill Jordan
Kerry Myrick	Florence	Brandi Oliver
Teresa Bellenger	Fort Mill	Pam Gilliland
Calley Kutner	Guntersville	Heather Jones
Jennifer Benefield	Hazel Green	Jarod Andrews & Dale Cole
Lauren Elliott	Hoover	Mark & Lisa Elliott
Sara Fry	Huntsville	Sandra Housley & Doni Harrison
Tomalyn Dombrowski	Huntsville	Joe Dombrowski
Wendy Rose	Leighton	David Twesme
Gail McGee	Lexington	David Twesme
Paula Taylor	Madison	Jana Killen
Christina Barnett	Madison	Athens 1st UMC Wed. Night RG (Lisa Gilbert)
Juana Garlington	Madison	Oscar Polk & Norris Holley
Courtney Boyll	Moulton	Kay Seale & Nancy Pinion
Kayla Gronemeyer	Muscle Shoals	Lori Mills
Jessica McKeough	Northport	Tinia McLaughlin
Mary Ensor	Northport	Julie Thomas
Mary Hyche	Pinson	Neil & Pam Branham
Amy Self	Sand Rock	Julie & Darrell Morgan
Erica Adams	Sheffield	Grace Anderson
Tina Callaway	Springville	Joyce Simonson
Joy Collins	Tuscaloosa	Holly McCollum

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 439
March 5-8, 2015**

Lay Director	Mickey Phillips (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Charlie Herfurth (Priority) David Speegle (Fourth Day) Lane Berry Ricky Nails Jim Sims Bill Cofield
Spiritual Director	Ricky Smith (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Jonathan Todd (Prevenient Grace) Dudley Brock (Justifying Grace) Mike Butler (Sanctifying Grace) Eric Brown (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bill Treutel
Asst. Table Leaders	Ed McGraw (Priesthood) Bill Barnett (Study) Bob Manney (Discipleship) Mark Skillman (Changing Our World) George Lyrene (Christian Action) James Doak (Body of Christ) Ken Farr (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Wendell Copeland Alan Wilson Buddy Perdue William Vaden Ronnie Heaton Mark Holmes Bill Peinhardt
Board Rep.	Dianne Herfurth

Committees

Agape:	Lisa Holmes	256-507-1499
Meal Service:	Judy Bonds	256-636-2735
Refreshments:	Joyce Doak	205-647-0921
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Gordon Boyd	256-734-3890
Housing:	TBA	
Candlelight:	TBA	
Clean-up:	TBA	
Closing:	TBA	
Entertainment:	Ken Farr	256-332-3864
Follow-up:	TBA	
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jeanette Duke	256-747-2149
Sponsors' Hour:	Walter Cash	256-747-4302
Worship:	Denise Nails	256-739-0798
Photographer:	Kim Priest	256-708-3973
Humble Servant:	Kay Parker-Phillips	256-796-8125

Name	City	Sponsor
William Walker	Alabaster	Fred & Mary Gleason
Robert Hurst	Albertville	Asbury UMC Church RG (Phillip Edwards)
Rick Sorrell	Ashville	Byron Holderfield
John King	Athens	Corie Hinkle
Bob Peden	Centre	Joy Morgan & Don Johnson
Kevin Elliott	Duncanville	Matthew Smith
Jack Gray	Eastaboga	Alan Brown
Terrance Brown	Florence	Grace & James Anderson
Tommy Redwine	Grant	Kelly Saylor
Nick Kellum	Guntersville	Steve Hallman
Rick Kelley	Harvest	Bruce Parris
Richard Botts	Hoover	Neil Segars
Drew Helveston	Huntsville	Leigh Helveston
C. L. Hubbard	Killen	Joseph Peeden
Darrell Good	Laceys Springs	Vern Spearman & Norris Holly
Harry Hobbs	Madison	Oscar Polk & Norris Holley
Jim Hanson	Madison	Alan Weatherly
Jeff Kintner	Northport	Marcia Kintner
Jheovanny Gomez	Northport	Shane Spiller
Max Morton	Owens Cross Rds.	David Wilson
Keenan Keil	Phil Campbell	Eddie & Kathy Britton
John Hammett	Piedmont	Connie Thompson
Glenn Welborn	Pinson	Neal Lacy
Phil Nicholson	Trussville	Butch Vaughn & Dan Shirah
Robert Timmons	Tuscumbia	Kendrick Burns
Larry Mosher	Wilsonville	Rick Pearson

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Prayer

(Continued From Page 3.)

preparation for this prayer. Notice (as I said above) that this is a prayer *to God through Christ inspired by the Holy Spirit*. As God instructed the hearts of the faithful in times past, so may God also instruct us today. The purpose of such inspiration is two-fold: that we might be “truly wise” — with the wisdom of God — and that we might “ever enjoy God’s consolations” — all the gifts of God’s grace.

It is this part of the prayer that goes back to at least the ninth century — and probably earlier. Thus, when we join in this prayer we are joining with the early church — and with the faithful of Israel as they sang their psalms — in praying for the continued inspiration and re-creation of the Holy Spirit.

All in all, it’s quite an inspiring and powerful prayer — if we understand it.

People may wonder why they are praying for God to “create” them when they have (evidently) already been created. But, remember: this is an affirmation of who the Spirit is and what the Spirit does. God creates us by the Spirit, because it is always the Spirit of God that gives life. God re-creates us in love through faith in Jesus Christ. So, while that part of the current Emmaus version of the prayer is a little strange, if you know it is a reference to Psalm 104:30 you still get the idea.

All in all, this is a wonderful prayer. It is a way of praying with the early church and with the faithful down through the ages for the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit. It also joins us with the ancient praises of Israel.

Author: Unknown

Praying for You

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

Debbie Blackmon (LW 36) in the death of her father, Millard Gary Robbins

The family of **Mary Lee Williams (160)**

Audrey Pate (291), for the loss of her sisters, Joyce Williams and Doris Fuller

Lyn Peters (229), for the loss of his mother, Mavis Peters

Pat Jones (CAE 32), for the loss of her husband, Donald Wayne Jones

Renee Wall (397), for the loss of her brother, John “Ray” Vinson

Sharon Wright (397) for the loss of her husband, Jimmy Wright

The family of **Geneva Coleman (113)**

Sharon Canada (152), for the loss of her husband, **Frank Canada (129)**

Denise Davis (198), **Lee Ann O’Toole (182)** and **Larry Doss (239)**, for the loss of their mother, Katherine Doss