

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 13 No. 1

February 2015

Community Humble Servants

Lori Mills
Lay Director

Calvin Havens
Spiritual Director

Mike Shotts
Asst. Lay Director

TBA
Asst. Spiritual Director

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

Ted Hagler
Treasurer

Rod Alexander
Lane Berry

Julie English

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Jan Hargrove

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Ronnie Harris

Dianne Herfurth

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Bill Prestridge

Sheila Saccucci

Mike Shotts

Roberta Wycoff

Judy Trull

Board Representatives

Kim Anderson
Literature

Jim Sims
Supplies

TBD
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

Sing a new song for all

By **LORIMILLS**
Lay Director

"There's within my heart a melody..." Many of you are singing the rest of these song lyrics right now. I remember singing it when I was a little girl. My mother played the piano in our church, so I sat with my grandmother and sang at the top of my lungs.

I guess I didn't realize at the time that my singing voice was not impressive. It didn't seem to bother anyone though. I just kept on singing. Today, I have 3 adult children who can sing. Two of them teach music in elementary school. It seems I have been surrounded by musi-

cally talented family members without having the talent myself, but I still love to sing.

I am humbled to serve alongside the Alabama Emmaus Community Board members as the 2015 Community Lay Director. A new year brings endless possibilities. What a joy for each of us in this community to serve each other, and be a part of the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of the pilgrims. It should make all of us want to sing!

One of the most powerful moments during the Emmaus weekend comes during *Dying Moments*. Think back to your own experience. The old is gone; the new has come. WOW. It

just doesn't get much better.

Psalm 40:1-3 says *I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.* Now, that's good stuff! We were all in that pit at one time, but Jesus pulled us out and gave us a **NEW SONG**.

If you are like me, you just have to be reminded that you can't keep your song to yourself. You have to sing it. He **(Please see Mills Page 2.)**

Lent invites us to new discipline

By **CALVIN HAVENS**
Spiritual Director

Soon after you receive this newsletter, I hope you will participate in an Ash Wednesday service, hopefully in the church where you worship. This special service marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Also some people 'intentionally' give up something meaningful remembering Christ's giving up His life for us. Calculating the equivalent cost of what was sacrificed and giving a gift on Easter to some cause within the church can enhance this sacrificial act.

I used to drink Diet Cokes and one Lenten season I felt led to give them up. It was difficult as I realized I was addicted. Yet, this spiritual act helped me, albeit, tiny in comparison, to grasp the sacrifice Jesus made for me.

Though I don't drink coffee, I've had people give up this beverage and several said it

was a great sacrifice and they could not wait until Easter so they could start back. Yet, through this experience they admit they have a small awareness of sacrifice.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During Ash Wednesday services, hopefully your pastor will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto your forehead. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins. It is traditional for the pastor to say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is based on God creating man in Genesis 3: 19.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn **(Please see Havens Page 8.)**

He loved us so much

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Community Coordinator

I would like to share with you a poem from Ann Weems' book, [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#).

The words are very thought provoking. I hope you enjoy it.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

The story of Jesus Christ is this:

The people of this earth waited for a messiah . . . a Savior . . .
and only God would send a little baby king.

The child grew and began to question things as they were,
and the man moved through his days and through this world, questioning the system of kings and priests and marketplace.

He was called the New Creation, the New Covenant, the Son of God who brought to all who listened, who saw

who understood change and new life.

But kings and corporations and churches of this world

work very hard to keep things as they are out into forever

Amen.

And so they killed him:

he who said, Love one another,

he who said, Feed my sheep,

for they didn't want to share their bread and their wine.

Now the story should have ended there

except that the story has always been

that our God is the God of the covenant.

The Good News is that

In spite of our faithlessness

God is faithful

And Jesus Christ was resurrected,

for God so loved the world

that he gave his only begotten Son

that whoever believed

might have everlasting Life.

Listen, you who have ears to hear.

Listen, and sit down to bread and wine with strangers.

Feed his sheep. . . . Love one another,

and claim new life in his name.

De Colores!

Carolyn Phillips

Talladega 1st UMC, Walk 63, Table of Ruth

The Grapevine

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Emmaus Board lists actions

In an endeavor to reach all of the Community, the Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors often publishes its actions in *The Grapevine*. This article looks back as far as September, 2014.

In October, the board named Mike Shotts of the Hamilton Cluster to be the Assistant Community Lay Director for 2015. He will succeed Lori Mills as Community Lay Director for 2016.

At their November meeting, the Alabama Board named Jim Sims of Oneonta Cluster to serve as Assistant Treasurer of the Community. He will assist Ted Hagler in his duties, and succeed Ted at such time as Ted decides to retire as Treasurer.

The Food Service Guidelines have been updated and are being distributed to Lay Directors for 2015. In an effort to accommodate the need of Pilgrims and team members who are allergic to gluten, instructions to sponsors of such Pilgrims have been added to the Food Service Guidelines and will soon be added to the Refreshments Guidelines. This new document, 'Instructions to Sponsors with Gluten-Free Pilgrims', will be sent to sponsors by Carolyn Phillips, Community Coordinator. Sponsors will also be referred to Angel Rait as a contact person for the board. Angel served as a board member from 2013-2104 and is responsible for these guidelines. She continues to advise the board regarding gluten-free diets.

If you have questions about any of these actions, please contact either of the board members from your Cluster Grouping, or the Community Lay Director.

Mills

(Continued From Page 1.)

has given us what we need. We all have a testimony. We can all show God's love to those around us. You will certainly have opportunities to sing your song in our community this year. One of the best ways to do that is through sponsorship.

Pray about who God would have you sponsor on an Emmaus Walk in 2015. Then, just do it. Good sponsorship is the best way to serve in the coming year. You may be asked to serve on team. Do it with a song in your heart. You can serve by attending candlelight where we will sing together. You may be singing it now- "Jesus, Jesus, can I tell you how I feel?"

Serve by signing up for the 72 Hour Prayer Vigil. We all remember how it felt to see the names of those people who were praying for us. Our song stays new when we sing it by serving others.

A line from my favorite song is "Sing a new song to Him who sits on Heaven's mercy seat." Let your song be heard.

Let's serve together this year with a new song in our mouth, a hymn of praise to our God; and know that many will see and fear the Lord, and put their trust in Him. SING, SING, SING!

DeColores!

Lori Mills

Walk 249

Table of Anna

Tuscumbia First United Methodist Church

Sponsorship guidelines add new element

The Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors has responded to the needs of Pilgrims and team members who are allergic to gluten. Since each person has individual needs, an instruction document has been created for the sponsors of Pilgrims with this medical condition. It applies only to those who have a diagnosis of gluten allergy, and will not apply to those who simply choose to avoid gluten.

When a Pilgrim is identified as being allergic to gluten, Carolyn Phillips, Community Coordinator, will send the new instructions to the sponsor. These instructions list items that are normally served as snacks, such as fruit, cheese, and some condiments, as well as some foods from the camp kitchen that might be permissible. The sponsor and Pilgrim will then go over the list and determine what other items the sponsor is to provide. As soon as this is done, the sponsor is to contact the Lay Director for the Walk to which the

Pilgrim is assigned and explain/discuss that Pilgrim's needs. The Lay Director will then assign team members to properly handle the diet for this Pilgrim during the Walk.

The sponsor is **required** to gather the food items needed by the Pilgrim for meals and snacks – as well as any communion elements needed – and take them to camp with the Pilgrim the day the Walk begins. The new instructions give sponsors specific directions for labeling and packing the food items their Pilgrim needs. This is one of the most important gifts of agape a sponsor can give to a Pilgrim.

These instructions are also being attached to the Food Service and Refreshments guidelines. This will enable team members to be aware of the procedure for Pilgrims, and let team members who are also allergic to gluten determine what foods they will need to bring with them when serving on a team.

Alabama community supports Ghana

In October 2014, Ted Hagler attended the annual meeting of the Emmaus International Advisory Committee in Nashville as the representative of the Alabama Emmaus Community. While there, he was approached by Stephane Brooks, International Emmaus Director, with a request to help the Ghana Emmaus Community.

A building had been donated to this young community as a place to hold their

Walks. However, the building was in need of \$9,000.00 worth of repairs. Stephane asked if the Alabama Community might be able to help with this need. Ted brought the request back to the board, and in true Alabama Emmaus tradition, \$5,000.00 was allocated to this need.

In years gone by, the Alabama Emmaus Community has supported the Red Bird Community in Kentucky, the Blue Lake

Community near Eufaula, the Living Waters Community near Calera, and the Birmingham Metropolitan Community – to name a few. Last year a donation was also made to 'The Gift' project, which is birthing a new Community in Chile. Truly, this is sponsorship in its finest form!

What a rich blessing from God to be strong and stable enough as a Community to give this support.

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/Rod Alexander
439	Mar 5-8	Mickey Phillips	Ricky Smith	Cullman/Oneonta	Dianne Herfurth/ Jim Harris
440	Apr 9-12	Betty Hamilton	Don Cross	Cheaha/East Alabama	Roberta Wyckoff/ Bill Prestridge
441	Apr 23-26	John McQueen	Ron Shultz	B'ham East/B'ham South/ South Shelby	Ronnie Harris/ Julie English
442	May 14-17	Dot Brewer	Mark Adams	Tuscaloosa/W Alabama	Judy Trull/Betsy Hass
443	May 28-31	Fran Elmore	TBA	Marshall/Gadsden/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Bruce Parris/ Jim Harris
<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 440
April 9-12, 2015**

Lay Director	Betty Hamilton (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Stephanie Kirby (Priority) Becky Willis (Fourth Day) Patrice Booth Christine Cromer Cathy Parker Dell Stone
Spiritual Director	Don Cross (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	W.G. Henry (Prevenient Grace) Mahlon Felkins (Justifying Grace) Ralph Barrow (Sanctifying Grace) Paula Calhoun (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	David Bryant
Asst. Table Leaders	Angel Rait (Priesthood) Brenda Kent (Study) Brandi LaBenne (Discipleship) Kathy Mitchell (Changing Our World) Harriett Goodwin (Christian Action) Susan Vickers (Body of Christ) Stephanie Terrell (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Dianne Wingfield Emmett Crowe Debra Fennell Kristi Akin Susie Simmons Kim Warren Denise Burford
Board Reps.	Roberta Wyckoff, Bill Prestridge

Committees

Agape:	Diane Scott	256-329-1000
Meal Service:	Larry Scott	256-329-1000
Refreshments:	Bill Goodwin	256-212-2090
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Ruth Johnson	256-245-6566
Housing:	Dave Roush	256-207-0578
Candlelight:	Mr. G	256-452-8189
Clean-up:	David Burford	256-831-5259
Closing:	Joe Branch	256-750-1978
Entertainment:	Bill Prestridge	256-831-6820
Follow-up:	Karen Hays	256-794-4833
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Susan Stover	334-272-1984
Sponsors' Hour:	TBA	
Worship:	Cameron Dodwell	256-329-3994
Photographer:	Deb Gregory	256-452-0860
Humble Servant:	Steve Crowe	256-234-3152

Name	City	Sponsor
Patti Vernon	Alabaster	Connie Kennamer
Tammy Collie	Albertville	Carolyn Carter & Judy Allred
Phyllis McClure	Aliceville	Kathy L. Marine
Brooke Hemphill	Arab	Kelley Jones
Samantha Southerland	Arab	Kelley Jones
Jennifer Tidwell	Birmingham	Kathleen King
Kimber Givens	Birmingham	Melinda Gullede
Tina Townsend	Calera	Butch/ Elaine Wildsmith
Jennifer Williamson	Columbus	Sarah Rickert
Michelle Huff	Columbus	Sarah Rickert
Cindy Higgins	Cullman	Brian Ridgeway & Nancy Slaton
Teresa Vaughn	Dora	Cinda Bergsieker
Phylis Sanders	Ft. Payne	Van Pruitt
Debbie Oden	Fultondale	Suzanne Frazier
Jami Bellar	Grant	Paula Wright
Nina Long	Haleyville	Ronnie Thrasher
Sabrina Kelley	Harvest	Bruce Parris
Meme Parham	Helena	Melissa & David Cooper
Paula Campbell	Hoover	Frances Kernea
Diann Haas	Huntsville	Kade Haas & Kendall Mason
Gail Johnson	Huntsville	Sherry Johnson
Wanda Lamoureux	Kellyton	Betty & Vic Hamilton
Shelia Holcombe	Laceys Spring	Gary McRae
Lynn Davis	Lineville	Betty Pittman
Mary Quick	Locust Fork	Cam Price
Erica Hobbs	Madison	Oscar Polk & Norris Holley
Martha Fowler	Moulton	Jean Sanderson
Janan Smith	Owens Cross Rds.	Sandra May, Sherry Johnson, Debbie Collins
Brenda Allen	Tuscaloosa	Freddie Allen
Joy Collins	Tuscaloosa	Holly McCollum
Shay Singley	Tuscaloosa	Emily R. Spiller
Jen Awwad	Tuscumbia	April Vafeas

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 441
April 23-26, 2015**

Lay Director	John McQueen (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Bill Rush (Priority) Martin von Herman (Fourth Day) Jack Bailey Jim Riddle Eric Barr Walter Bryant
Spiritual Director	Ron Schultz (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Dean Bowers (Prevenient Grace) Mike Densmore (Justifying Grace) Lynn Gibson (Sanctifying Grace) Henry Prater (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Linn Lower
Asst. Table Leaders	Mike Morgan (Priesthood) Jack Mundy (Study) Rux Bentley (Discipleship) Bruce Carpenter (Changing Our World) Steve Hopson (Christian Action) Scott Shurett (Body of Christ) Jim Frazier (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Fred Clay Neal Lacy Byron Smith Russ Parsons Chuck Ferguson Larry Matthews Mike Teague
Board Rep.	Ronnie Harris

Committees

Agape:	Tammy Carpenter 205-420-1376
Meal Service:	Gene Thrailkill 205-744-8370
Refreshments:	Ruth Ann Clay 205-335-3546
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Carolyn Chaffin 205-979-7502
Housing:	Teresa Harris 205-525-4850
Candlelight:	Pat Richburg 205-531-1443
Clean-up:	Harry Dinken 205-967-0058
Closing:	Doyle Kernea 205-988-3412
Entertainment:	George Scroggin, Jr. 256-491-1634
Follow-up:	Lynn Carmichael 205-491-1634
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Linda Smith 205-901-9323
Sponsors' Hour:	LaShawn Scholl 205-938-9256
Worship:	Andrea von Herman 205-426-8030
Photographer:	Debbie Cooner 205-655-5070
Humble Servant:	Dianna McQueen 205-988-3051

Name	City	Sponsor
David Allison	Calera	Russ Parsons
Adam Hobson	Helena	John Harpole
Josh Kelley	Muscle Shoals	Bill Gough & Bonnie Aultman
Michael Burger	Ohatchee	Tom Carleson & Floyd Chaplin
Tim Lewis	Tuscaloosa	Neal Segars

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 442
May 14-17, 2015**

Lay Director	Dot Brewer (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Sandrea Brasher (Priority) Carol Weaver (Fourth Day) Katie Woodward Sarah Rickert Mary Ham Suzie Tant
Spiritual Director	Mark Adams (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Scott Thackerson (Prevenient Grace) Wade Langer (Justifying Grace) Tim Alexander (Sanctifying Grace) Lynn Gibson (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Mike Brewer
Asst. Table Leaders	Laura Bracey (Priesthood) Libby Kimbrell (Study) Andrea Armstrong (Discipleship) Becca Langford (Changing Our World) Janice Stewart (Christian Action) Kathy Marine (Body of Christ) Jaque Allred (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Carol Frazier Tinia McLaughlin Julie Thomas Karen Worley Kristy Hammond Holly McCollum Susan Clements
Board Reps.	Judy Trull, Betsy Haas

Committees

Agape:	Jaime Rickert	662-425-9344
Meal Service:	Elbert Patterson	205-394-0358
Refreshments:	Pam Gibson	662-574-9305
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Joe Petrey	205-826-2408
Housing:	Butch Burgess	662-327-6410
Candlelight:	Erin Burns	205-662-4734
Clean-up:	Craig Shelby	205-393-4393
Closing:	Lynn Gregory	205-799-6922
Entertainment:	Ken Hanby	205-339-7057
Follow-up:	Patricia Clark	205-556-2120
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Cecilia Hammond	205-752-7349
Sponsors' Hour:	Kathy Mason	205-339-6550
Worship:	Candice Robbins	205-242-5570
Photographer:	Paul Haas	205-239-6749
Humble Servant:	Ryan Rickert	662-243-2190

Name	City	Sponsor
Gena Cox	Decatur	Betty Grisham
Mary Beth Durham	Florence	Cindy White
Emily Buck	Guntersville	Regina/Larry Gregory
Tomalyn Dombrowski	Huntsville	Joe Dombrowski
Courtney Boyll	Moulton	Kay Seale & Nancy Pinion
Tina Callaway	Springville	Joyce Simonson

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The Grapevine

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

April concert to benefit Camp Sumatanga

On Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 pm, Randall Acheson will perform a piano concert at East Lake UMC in Birmingham for the benefit of Camp Sumatanga. Randall grew up in Clanton, and began attending Samford University's School of Music at age 12! Randall went on to attend Julliard, where he was the only student in Julliard's history to ever be allowed to pursue and receive simultaneous degrees in piano and organ.

He has performed 12 solo concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York and has toured and performed throughout the world, including at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Randall returns to his roots in Alabama for this special event. Ticket information will be available in the near future on the Sumatanga and North Alabama Conference websites.

Havens

(Continued From Page 1.)

to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

As you continue your "Fourth Day," I hope you will not only participate in an Ash Wednesday service, but also let God's Spirit do a formation work in you this Lent.

Decolores, Calvin

Praying for You

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

Sandy Sandlin and Judy Bentley (54), for the loss of their brother

Bill Trull (155), for the loss of his brother