

The Grapevine

Vol. 13 No. 2

April 2015

Community Humble Servants

Lori Mills
Lay Director

Calvin Havens
Spiritual Director

Mike Shotts
Asst. Lay Director

Mac Buttram
Asst. Spiritual Director

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Community Coordinator

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Jim Sims
Supplies

Kay Seale
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

The promise of Spring to us all

By **LORIMILLS**
Lay Director

In February 1985, Nancy Sleeth wrote *Hymn of Promise* as a choral anthem, and later adapted it as a hymn. Nancy had recently experienced the death of a friend. She wrote that her lyrics were inspired as she pondered life and death, winter and spring, and a T. S. Eliot poem which had the phrase “in the end is our beginning” - all seeming opposites.

Spring is a beautiful time to see the evidence of God’s promises. We can see new life coming out of the cold, dead winter. Isn’t Camp Sumatanga amazing in the spring? Even though

we know that spring will come every year, there’s just something about seeing the first blooms on the dogwood tree or feeling the warm sun on our faces that just makes us feel better. It’s an assurance of God’s promises.

We experience those promises on the Emmaus Walk as well. *Dying Moments* is a time when we allow something in our old selves to die so that it may be replaced with new, fresh growth. We hear the pilgrims tell it time after time - experiences of the old being made new. What a miracle – just like spring! Let’s commit to pray about who God would have us sponsor to share in this

wondrous experience. We know He will be faithful to answer our prayers.

As we experience the wonder of spring, let’s remember God’s promises to make all things new. Consider Nancy Sleeth’s lyrics and her hopeful message that out of winter will come spring and out of death will come life.

Hymn of Promise

“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
(Please see Mills Page 2.)

Are you an asset or liability?

By **CALVIN HAVENS**
Spiritual Director

Easter is now behind us. I hope you had a great Easter experience and people came to the church you attend in droves.

But, it’s back to the real world. The headiness of Easter soon gives way to the reality that most people have no sustainable faith commitment. The high attendance on Easter is normally followed by a lowering attendance in the coming weeks. Then summer hits. Ouch!

My platform as the Community Spiritual Director has been to challenge those who’ve gone on their Walk to become change agents in their local churches. So, I ask you: Are you an asset or a liability where you attend church? Do you attract or repel people to the kingdom? Do people see your good deeds and give glory to God, wanting to become more like you?

We are either an asset or a liability

for the kingdom of God. My hope is that as you read this article you will take a moment and reflect on which you are. Often I realize how I perceive myself is not how others might perceive me. I might think I’m doing great things for God, but my judgmental attitude is actually hurting the cause of Christ. How about you?

As you are aware, the church as we know it, is in decline. It’s time we face our responsibility in this matter. I firmly believe that “to reach people no one else is reaching we’re going to have to do things no one else is doing,” and most Christians like their preferred ways of doing things. Without realizing it, we’ve become more “me” centered than Christ-centered.

Fellow pilgrims, on this journey called life, let’s be assets for the kingdom of God, starting in our local churches.

De Colores, Calvin Havens

Price increase

Board approves change

In February, the Alabama Emmaus Community Board of Directors approved a price increase for team members.

Camp Sumatanga delayed this increase as long as they could. They are making improvements that will benefit our community.

You may have noticed the new mattresses in the East Wing – a nice upgrade. The Board is thankful to be able to keep pilgrim costs the same. The cost increase will take effect May 1, so it will begin with Walk 442.

Please refer to the forms for the changes, and look at the date on your team registration forms (May 1, 2015) to make sure the updated form is in use.

We are so thankful to have such a special place as Camp Sumatanga for the Alabama Emmaus Walks.

Mills

(Continued From Page 1.)

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.
God bless you all.

DeColores!

Lori Mills

Walk 249, Table of Anna

Tuscumbia First United Methodist Church

The Grapevine

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.

Good or bad decision?

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Community Coordinator

Recently I made a very bad decision to have my hands full and attempt to go down a long flight of steps. Needless to say I fell and broke my arm. I did make a good decision however to do what the doctor said and let it mend. This is very hard for me because I am not the most patient person and hate to have anyone do anything for me. I am very thankful for a very loving and patient husband who has brought me through this ordeal.

When you sponsor someone on their walk let that be a good decision. Many times we do not give our 100% in sponsoring someone for their walk and that is a bad decision. You have to be totally committed to preparing and nurturing your pilgrim for their walk. For those out there who may be new to sponsoring, here is a handy, dandy check list.

1. PRAY. Someone once told me, "Talk to God about man before you talk to man about God!" He was absolutely right. Pray for guidance before approaching anyone about attending a walk. Not everyone wants or needs to attend a walk. For some, it may not be the right time.

2. CHOOSE WISELY. Do not expect or lead others to expect things the walk is not intended to provide. Do not sponsor people with the intention that they receive physical healing or resolution to some major life problem. Our mission is to prepare Christian leaders for deeper service. The Upper Room recommends that we sponsor members of mainline protestant denominations who are active in their church.

3. RESPECT THE SPOUSE. Both the sponsor and the pilgrim should agree to the equal commitment rule. This means that both partners in a marriage should attend a walk rather than only one. The walk can be a life-changing experience. The only way one can understand what has happened to their husband or wife is to experience for themselves. It is a great disservice to invite only one partner of a marriage.

4. PREPARE. Explain the events of the walk to your pilgrim. They will have a better experience if they are not apprehensive. You don't have to tell all, but answer all questions honestly. There are no secrets. Make sure your pilgrim is ready and takes everything they need: comfortable clothing, toiletries, bedding and medications if needed.

5. FOLLOW THROUGH. Collect the agape letters ahead of time. Have your pilgrim at camp on time. Establish him or her in their assigned room. Stay for sponsors' hour after the pilgrims go downstairs. Attend candlelight and closing. Sign up for the prayer vigil and consider serving a meal during the weekend. Don't neglect the pilgrim's family. Make sure they are cared for while their loved one is away.

6. FOLLOW UP. After the walk, make sure your pilgrim attends the local follow up meeting and gets connected to a reunion group. Continue to mentor your pilgrim after the walk. It is a continuing experience, not a one-time thing.

7. USE YOUR RESOURCES. The main one is prayer. Continue to pray for the pilgrims and the team throughout the walk. If you are a new sponsor, consider getting someone with
(Please see Phillips Page 6.)

Sample of new Team form reflects increase

ALABAMA WALK TO EMMAUS

TEAM REGISTRATION Walk Number _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL TEAM MEMBERS
As of May 1, 2015

Name _____ Original Walk Number _____

Function/Committee _____ Room Mate _____

COSTS PER TEAM MEMBER FOR THE ENTIRE WALK:

HOUSING Meals/Team Fee	TOTAL COST		Includes Room/
MAIN LODGE — EAST WING ONLY	160.00		
OLD GUEST HOUSE – 1 Person	235.00		
OLD GUEST HOUSE – 2 Persons (each)	175.00		
OLD GUEST HOUSE - Room 141 Person		2 Persons (each)	241.00 175.00
EVA WALKER – 1 Person	274.00		
EVA WALKER – 2 Persons (each)	196.00		
EVA WALKER – 3 Persons (each)	175.00		
EVA WALKER – 4 Persons (each)	163.00		
RETREAT CENTER – 1 Person	295.00		
RETREAT CENTER – 2 Persons (each)	202.00		
RETREAT CENTER – 3 Persons (each)	184.00		
RETREAT CENTER – 4 Persons (each)	175.00		

<<<<<< CAMPERS \$25.00 PER NIGHT >>>>>>
<<<<<< TENTS \$10.00 PER NIGHT >>>>>>

UPCOMING WALKS					
Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
442	May 14-17	Dot Brewer	Mark Adams	Tuscaloosa/W Alabama	Judy Trull/Betsy Hass
443	May 28-31	Fran Elmore	Tammy Jackson	Marshall/Gadsden/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Bruce Parris
444	Aug 13-16	Roger Karr	Jeff Armbraster	Franklin/Hamilton/ Haleyville	Mike Shotts/Rick Hall
445	Sep 10-13	Jane Bauer	Larry Wright	Huntsville/Madison	Bruce Parris/ Noreen Parton
446	Sep 24-27	Billy Hargrove	Bob Gunn	Shoals/Moulton/Decatur/ Athens	Jan Hargrove /Rod Alexander
447	Oct 8-11	Rita Speegle	Mac Buttram	Cullman/Oneonta	Dianne Herfurth/ Lane Berry
<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 443
May 28-31, 2015**

Lay Director	Fran Elmore (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Deborah Naugher (Priority) Carol Weeks (Fourth Day) Debra Baker Pam Long Amelia Powell
Spiritual Director	Tammy Jackson (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Carl Long (Prevenient Grace) Tony Jones (Justifying Grace) TBA (Sanctifying Grace) Vicki Mann (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bob Bentley
Asst. Table Leaders	Nancy Beason (Priesthood) Connie Kennamer (Study) Judi Beggs (Discipleship) Anita Long (Changing Our World) Teresa Holderfield (Christian Action) Tami Kelly (Body of Christ) Dana Williams (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Bessie Webb Kaye Carter Carol Cranford Carrie Beard Nancy Barker Alice Henderson Crystal Croft
Board Reps.	Bruce Parris, Jim Harris

Committees

Agape:	Charlie Baker	256-878-7166
Meal Service:	Don Long	256-673-1713
Refreshments:	Leslie Colgrove	256-442-4652
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Bridget Cialek	256-706-7489
Housing:	Peggy Lindsey	256-200-1679
Candlelight:	Rocky Hernon	256-728-8035
Clean-up:	Andy Powell	256-593-7611
Closing:	Pat Wright	256-996-5923
Entertainment:	Mr. G. Scroggin	256-927-5353
Follow-up:	Martha Herston	256-630-2986
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Judy Bailey	
Sponsors' Hour:	Ann Frazier	256-506-4272
Worship:	Angela Jolly	256-891-4300
Photographer:	Andy Powell	
Humble Servant:	Wayne Rice	256-960-2140

Name	City	Sponsor
Emily Adcock	Auburn	Ann Woodrow
Jennifer Tidwell	Birmingham	Kathleen King
Joyce Daniel	Canton	Ted & Judy Anderson
Sharon Hatcher	Dawson	Paul Vick
Gena Cox	Decatur	Betty Grisham
Kerry Myrick	Florence	Brandi Oliver
Jane Harvey	Guntersville	Joey & Crystal Croft
Belette Kellum	Guntersville	Kaye Dean
Cindi Alldredge	Guntersville	Freda Johnston & Brashers Chapel RG
Jennifer Benefield	Hazel Green	Jarod Andrews & Dale Cole
Tara Bacon	Helena	Jennifer Kahl & Lori Carden
Brandi Guthrie	Hoover	Nancy Harper
Sylvia Moore	Huntsville	Paula & Doug Taylor
Leah Kiker	Moulton	Kay Seale & Barbara Carroll
Jennifer McCroskey	Mtn. Brook	Patti Boomershine
Lora Hulsey	Russellville	Jennifer Swinney & Lacey Tompkins
Leah Yocom	Spruce Pine	Amber Steward
Katie Stotts	Stone Mountain	Connie Thompson
Pam Brown	Tuscaloosa	Susan Woods, Sherri Trick, & Robbie Barrineau
Shay Singley	Tuscaloosa	Emily R. Spiller

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 444
August 13-16, 2015**

Lay Director	Roger Karr (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Mark Dearen (Priority) Johnny Hardin (Fourth Day) Jerry Gann Kevin Posey Brent Hellums David McNutt
Spiritual Director	Jeff Armbruster (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Tim Alexander (Prevenient Grace) Ryan Karr (Justifying Grace) Elliott Gordon (Sanctifying Grace) Earl Freeman (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Sheila Wiginton
Asst. Table Leaders	John Adkins (Priesthood) Jeff Bowling (Study) Stewart Ozburn (Discipleship) Paul Davis (Changing Our World) Matt McCracken (Christian Action) Lee Page (Body of Christ) Rob Crook (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Roland Ellis Paul Huffman Rocky Stone Robert Wood Wallace Thrasher Jeff Frame
Board Reps.	Mike Shotts, Rick Hall

Committees

Agape:	Kathy Hall	256-332-0703
Meal Service:	Patty Gann	205-468-3742
Refreshments:	Belinda McRae	205-487-9008
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Linda Aldridge	205-468-2347
Housing:	Pat Hardin	256-386-7800
Candlelight:	Pat Seals	256-412-4701
Clean-up:	Diane Karr	205-272-0066
Closing:	Heather Lanham	256-810-9696
Entertainment:	George Childree	205-495-2012
Follow-up:	Krista Clark	205-269-0775
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Deanna Shotts	205-921-7614
Sponsors' Hour:	Cindy Norris	205-487-6679
Worship:	Kim Purdue	256-332-3892
Photographer:	Lanny Norris	205-487-6679
Humble Servant:	Diane Karr	

Name	City	Sponsor
Stanley Nelson	Athens	Johnny Marshall
Doyle Jones	Cullman	Rickey Nails
Jack Gray	Eastaboga	Alan Brown
Terrance Brown	Florence	Grace & James Anderson
Cory Buck	Guntersville	Larry & Regina Gregory
Rick Kelley	Harvest	Bruce Parris
Chris Klaus	Huntsville	Chris Martin
Mack Savage	Huntsville	Chris Martin
Drew Helveston	Huntsville	Leigh Helveston
Vic Kellum	Leeds	Jeff & Lisa Bramer
Terry Jacobs	Northport	Joe Powell
Byron Fair	Northport	Charles Bush
Jheovanny Gomez	Northport	Shane Spiller
Marty Leeth	Owens Cross Rds	Ken/Jackie Albrecht
Keenan Keil	Phil Campbell	Eddie & Kathy Britton
Tim Davis	Rainbow City	Jeff Prince
Chris Self	Sand Rock	Amy Self and Darrell & Julie Morgan
Robert Timmons	Tuscumbia	Kendrick Burns
Danny Buck	Union Grove	Beverly Simpson
Daniel Bass	Vestavia	Bill Rush & Fred Clay

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P.O. Box 1216
Talladega, AL 35161

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

Franklin County donates \$

The Franklin County Cluster has donated \$1300 for the purchase of new light-weight tables for the pilgrim dining room and the team dining area. Camp Sumatanga and the Alabama Emmaus Community say "Thank You" to our brothers and sisters in Franklin County!

Many donations such as this one are being made all across Camp. The Sumatanga Day Camp program team recently donated funds to purchase new room lamps for Eva Walker to go along with the new mattresses!

Phillips

(Continued From Page 2.)

experience to assist or guide you through the process. Reunion groups are an excellent source for such help.

8. KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING. Stay focused. Your pilgrim's walk is not about you. Do not try to relive your walk or dictate what kind of experience should be expected. This is about your pilgrim and developing a closer relationship to God. We merely provide the setting and the opportunity. Let God do the rest.

We have the opportunity to make good or bad decisions in life. May we all strive to keep what is good and important as our main priority!

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

Praying for You

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

The family of **Vicky Hulsey (419)**

Diane Wood (359), for the loss of her mother

The family of **Carolyn Hassell (291)**

The family of **Mary Farr Hamby**

Jim Napp (14: FE), for the loss of his wife, **Joan Napp (9)**

Mickey Phillips (162), for the loss of his mother

Buddy Vandervoort (186), for the loss of his wife **Martha Vandervoort (52)** and **Kenneth Vandervoort (386)**, for the loss of his mother

Bob Crisp (289), for the loss of his mother

Marvelle LeCroy (226), for the loss of her husband, **Jim LeCroy (213)**

Betty Gunn (102) for the loss of her husband, **Bill Gunn**, and **Bob Gunn (31:FE)** for the loss of his brother.

Susan Howard (163), for the loss of her father, **Herb Sutter**

Mary Nell Pemberton (291), for the loss of her daughter, **Debra Wills** and **Connie Jackson (204)**, for the loss of her sister