

Alabama Emmaus Community News

# The Grapevine

Vol. 13 No. 4

August 2015

## Community Humble Servants

**Lori Mills**  
Lay Director

**Mac Buttram**  
Spiritual Director

**Mike Shotts**  
Asst. Lay Director

**Carolyn Phillips**  
Community Coordinator

**Ted Hagler**  
Treasurer

**Rod Alexander**  
**Billy Bell**  
**Lane Berry**  
**Julie English**  
**Betsy Haas**  
**Ricky Hall**  
**Jan Hargrove**  
**Jim Harris**  
**Ronnie Harris**  
**Dianne Herfurth**  
**Bill Jordan**  
**Bruce Parris**  
**Bill Prestridge**  
**Sheila Saccucci**  
**Mike Shotts**  
**Roberta Wycoff**  
**Judy Trull**  
Board Representatives

**Kim Anderson**  
Literature

**Jim Sims**  
Supplies

**Kay Seale**  
Community Agape

**Dan Bell**  
Name Tags

## Don't wish away the present

By **LORIMILLS**  
Lay Director

As I write this article, I am eagerly anticipating the birth of my first grandchild – and I mean EAGERLY. He could arrive any day now. Many of you have shared stories about your grandchildren with me. I've seen pictures of your precious grandchildren and heard about the immeasurable joys of being called "Papa" or "Nana." Quite frankly, I am worked into a frenzy at this point. Each day I wake up with the thought that it could be today!

In my anticipation I've realized that I am wishing away the hours and days, and that's a

shame. My thoughts and energy should focus on the present. What is God saying to me right now? Am I too distracted by the future to hear or respond to Him?

Think back to your Emmaus Walk. Wasn't it wonderful to be in the present with no watch, schedule, calendar, or 'to do' list? Of course, I asked several times during my Walk about what was happening next, only to be told "DON'T ANTICIPATE!"

I need to hear those words now. I say over and over to myself that God is in control and His timing is perfect, but I'm guilty of wanting things to happen in my time or for my convenience.

I don't want to miss today because I'm wishing for tomorrow. Maybe you have had similar experiences. Don't we all sometimes wish the weekdays away in our quest for the weekend?

Perhaps nothing taught me this lesson more through the years than the times I sat with loved ones who were very near the end of life on this earth. It is during those times that I treasured every single second. We are not promised tomorrow. Proverbs 27:1 says "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may

(Please see Mills Page 2.)

## Each of us experiences Walk 1

By **MAC BUTTRAM**  
Spiritual Director

I had the privilege of attending Alabama Walk to Emmaus Walk #1. Many times when people in our community know this they ask me questions about Walk #1. The most common are:

- How were you chosen for Walk #1?
- What was Walk #1 like?

Many of you will remember the names Bert and Ella Goodwin. Bert was the Executive Director of Camp Sumatanga from 1970 until 1984. Ella is my mother's sister, so they are "Uncle Bert" and "Aunt Ella" to me. They, along with others from the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, went to Nashville in 1981 for an Upper Room Cursillo. Those clergy and laypersons were the core leaders who started the Alabama Emmaus Community. Bert and Ella offered to sponsor me and any misgivings I had were tempered by my total trust in their advice.

The Walk was held May 13-16, 1982. Sponsors' Hour, Candlelight, and Closing were all held at First United Methodist Church in Attalla. We rode in an old school/church bus to Camp

Sumatanga, back and forth for the various gatherings. We met in the same area in the basement of Hutto Auditorium as we meet today.

There were 28 pilgrims, eight clergy and 20 laymen. The Spiritual Director was Bill Miles and the Lay Director was George Scott. If I had room to share them all, the list of laypersons and clergy who were members of the team would be a virtual "Hall of Fame" in the Alabama Emmaus Community. There was one Assistant Spiritual Director who was not from North Alabama and did not give one of the grace talks, Robert Wood, who was one of the authors of the talk outlines. Also in attendance for short visits during the week were Maxie Dunnam and Danny Morris, also leaders in the transition from Cursillo to the Walk to Emmaus.

The most memorable talk for me was Priority (yes, there were three kingdoms then). It was given by Bill Litty, a retired airline pilot from Attalla. There is one thought that he shared that has remained with me for these 33 years: "We should be living our lives moving toward

(Please see Buttram Page 2.)

## Give it to God

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS  
Community Coordinator

Recently I was having a very bad day. I opened a great devotional book I have, *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young and found these words for the day:

“When things seem to be going all wrong, stop and affirm your trust in Me. Calmly bring these matters to Me, and leave them in My capable hands. Then, simply do the next thing. Stay in touch with Me through thankful, trusting prayers, resting in My sovereign control. Rejoice in Me—exult in the God of your salvation! As you trust in Me, I make your feet like the feet of a deer. I enable you to walk and make progress upon high places of trouble, suffering, or responsibility.”

Needless to say the day went along and things did get better. Situations arise that we have no control over and we need to put our trust in Him. We must not dwell on the bad things that happen in life but remember the good things. Trust is something we have to really work toward. It is easy to lay something down and then quickly pick it back up. Recently, I prayed for God to wrap His arms around someone and give him whatever he needed. I felt it was healing, stamina, and patience for the day ahead. Oh, I saw God at work because changes came. Prayers work.

We have 5 walks remaining this year with openings. There are 4 walks for ladies and 1 for men. I will be glad to schedule your pilgrims when I receive their applications. Please remember the application should be completely filled out and the \$30.00 deposit included.

De Colores! Carolyn Phillips, Talladega 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Walk 63, Table of Ruth

## Mills

(Continued From Page 1.)

bring.” I want to learn to value the time now. We have 7 Alabama Emmaus Walks remaining in 2015. I want to soak up each one of them. You will have opportunities to sponsor, pray, serve, and attend candlelight. Don’t miss those moments.

We won’t get these days back. While I’m so excited to meet my grandchild, God is teaching me to be in the moment. May we all live right now with our hearts open to God. After all, we don’t want to miss anything. God bless you all.

DeColores! Lori Mills, Walk 249, Table of Anna  
Tuscumbia First United Methodist Church

### *The Grapevine*

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Web: [www.AlaEmmaus.org](http://www.AlaEmmaus.org)  
**email: [Office@AlaEmmaus.org](mailto:Office@AlaEmmaus.org)**

Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 1016 Sedgefield Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35150, or emailed to [DHall92727@aol.com](mailto:DHall92727@aol.com).

## Sponsorship 101

# Good sponsors learn about role

‘What has the Emmaus Walk meant to me?’ – and -  
‘What am I going to do about it?’

Those are familiar questions, aren’t they? Well – if it was just earlier this year that you were asked these questions, or if it was 30 years ago – what DID it mean to you, and what ARE you doing about it?

For many of us, when we hear these questions for the first time, at least a part of the answer is that we loved it and we want to share it with all those near and dear to us. And so it should be!

So if this is the case, and our Walk was special and of value to us, then we of course want it to be at least as special and of value to those we sponsor. So, what are you doing about that?

Are you making sure you know all you need to know to be a good sponsor? After all, what is a good sponsor? A good one is many things, but is first of all someone who cares enough to learn all about the job. And this should be BEFORE actually doing it!

There are so many ways to learn. Read the book *Sponsorship* that’s available at Candlelight and Closing. ASK people who are knowledgeable and practiced. Check out all the material available to you. Stay involved in your Cluster. Learn constantly from being there.

Again – what did it mean to you and what are you going to do about it?

## Buttram

(Continued From Page 1.)

wholeness and perfection. However, our goals must be realistic and attainable.”

Another memorable moment was when Jim Ridge, who (unknown to us) was the Assistant Table Leader for my Table of Thomas, gave the Life in Piety talk. Just like most of you thought, it appeared that he was just chosen “out of the blue,” and I wondered if they would call on me to do the same.

Of course the highlight was the 41 letters I received on Sunday afternoon. I had been a pastor for only eleven months, and many of the letters were from members of the churches I was pastoring. Their expressions of love and encouraging words of affirmation set an early tone for my ministry. And the letters from my children (then eleven and eight), parents (now deceased) and other friends and family members are treasures today.

Even though I attended the first Walk 33 years ago, each one of us has experienced our own first Walk—our own Walk #1.

May love be of every bright color for you,  
Mac

Proceeds benefit Camp Sumatanga

## *Bottcher Memorial tourney slated for October*

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bud Bottcher Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for Oct. 31. It's time now to put this date on your calendar! This is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. at the Joe Wheeler State Park Golf Course in Rogersville. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and the \$75.00 fee includes golf cart, green fees, prizes and lunch.

There is a hole-in-one prize of \$10,000!

If you don't play, perhaps you'd like to sponsor a hole. The levels are: Bronze - \$100.00, Silver - \$150.00, Gold - \$200.00, and Platinum - \$250.00.

All proceeds go to Camp Sumatanga.

Make checks payable to Rogersville United Methodist Church.

Email [bwatson0331@gmail.com](mailto:bwatson0331@gmail.com) or call

(256) 627-3060 or (256) 483-1398 if you have questions.

Registration forms available online at [www.shoalsemmaus.com](http://www.shoalsemmaus.com) (Shoals Cluster website) and also in the church office.

# UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
445	Sep 10-13	Jane Bauer	Larry Wright	Huntsville/Madison	Bruce Parris/ Billy Bell
<b>446</b>	<b>Sep 24-27</b>	<b>Billy Hargrove</b>	<b>Bob Gunn</b>	<b>Shoals/Moulton/ Decatur/Athens</b>	<b>Jan Hargrove/Mike Shotts/Ricky Hall</b>
447	Oct 8-11	Rita Speegle	Mac Buttram	Cullman/Oneonta	Dianne Herfurth/ Lane Berry
448	Oct 22-25	Judy Belitz	Lloyd Gibbs	Cheaha/East Alabama	Roberta Wyckoff/ Bill Prestridge
449	Nov 5-8	Merrie L. Pearson	Angela Martin	B'ham E/B'ham/Shelby	Ronnie Harris/ Julie English
<b>450</b>	<b>Nov 12-15</b>	<b>Paul Hass</b>	<b>John Verciglio</b>	<b>Tuscaloosa/West Alabama</b>	<b>Judy Trull/Betsy Hass</b>

\*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 447  
October 8-11, 2015**

Lay Director	Rita Speegle (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Jo Presto (Priority) Judy Bonds (Fourth Day) Pam Buttram Shirley Hays Melanie Skillman Sara Manney
Spiritual Director	Mac Buttram (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Debra Moon (Prevenient Grace) Dudley Brock (Justifying Grace) TBA (Sanctifying Grace) TBA (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Robert Wood
Asst. Table Leaders	Jill Sellars (Priesthood) Brandy Cheatham (Study) Betty Fowler (Discipleship) Lindsey Buttram Middleton (Changing Our World) Cheri Waldrop (Christian Action) Kerry Hanvey (Body of Christ) Joyce Doak (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Kathy Hall Sandra Sloan Linda Sledge Mary Young Sandy Parker Linda Brocaco Carol Law
Board Reps.	Diane Herfurth, Lane Berry

**Committees**

Agape:	Ricky Hall	256-627-6810
Meal Service:	Charlie Herfurth	256-708-0963
Refreshments:	Sharon Lott	256-347-1269
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Gordon Boyd	256-734-3890
Housing:	Dan Bell	205-849-2127
Candlelight:	Denise Nails	256-739-0798
Clean-up:	Team 447	
Closing:	Mark Skillman	205-446-2451
Entertainment:	George Lyrene	256-739-0815
Follow-up:	Wendell Copeland	256-734-1135
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jeanette Duke	256-747-2149
Sponsors' Hour:	Tony Mize	205-486-2787
Worship:	Ginger Gaddis	256-356-2620
Photographer:	Terri Wrenn	256-347-1721
Humble Servant:	David Speegle	256-385-1401

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Martha Ann Fuller	Birmingham	Cindy Ledkins
Jennifer Kieffer	Birmingham	Cindy Ledkins
Crystal Lee	Birmingham	Cindy Ledkins
Cissy Smitherman	Birmingham	Cindy Ledkins
Maria Stanford	Cullman	Charlie & Dianne Herfurth
Kathy Thomas	Guin	Gerald Gann
Jen Clark	Hanceville	Jim & Mary Nell Saunders and Samantha Faucett
Jennifer Parton	Huntsville	Linda & Ken Mason
Carol Ann Russell	Huntsville	Celia Darden
Martha Taylor	Madison	Dee Staggs
Edie Stringfellow	Northport	Sandra Brasher /Angie Baines
Judy LaRocque	Oneonta	Linda Faust
Suellen Tobler	Oneonta	Carol Roberts

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 448  
October 22-25, 2015**

Lay Director	Judy Belitz (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Denise Burford (Priority) Brenda Fennell (Fourth Day) Brenda Kent Brenda Causey Susan Vickers Cathy Parker
Spiritual Director	Lloyd Gibbs (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Amy Parsons Vaughn (Prevenient Grace) John James (Justifying Grace) Pete West (Sanctifying Grace) Mark Bissonnette (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Gail Hiatt
Asst. Table Leaders	Angel Rait (Priesthood) Christine Cromer (Study) Lynda Kearse (Discipleship) Katherine Richardson (Changing Our World) Katrina Upchurch (Christian Action) Susie Roush (Body of Christ) TBA (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Brandi LaBenne Chrystal Prestridge Smith Chris Brightbill Kim Warren Cameron Dodwell TBA TBA
Board Reps.	Roberta Wyckoff, Bill Prestridge

**Committees**

Agape:	Linda Kociaba	256-820-1931
Meal Service:	Butch Fennell	256-839-5933
Refreshments:	Linda Stanfield	256-358-4477
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	TBA	
Housing:	Lamar Hiatt	256-659-6161
Candlelight:	TBA	
Clean-up:	TBA	
Closing:	TBA	
Entertainment:	Linda Bouldin	256-561-4949
Follow-up:	TBA	
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Judy Bailey	256-390-9030
Sponsors' Hour:	Becky Willis	256-820-0471
Worship:	Missy Bissonnette	256-558-2127
Photographer:	TBA	
Humble Servant:	Chuck Belitz	

Name	City	Sponsor
Vicky Dobbins	Albertville	Gail Gibson
Libby Forrester	Alexander City	Harriett & Bill Goodwin
Lucretia Chappell	Alexander City	Barbara Muenzmay
Cathy Jackson	Boaz	Gail Gibson
Tomalyn Dombrowski	Huntsville	Joe Dombrowski
Patsy Hollis	Jacksons Gap	Barbara Muenzmay

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 449  
November 5-8, 2015**

Lay Director Merrie Lynne Pearson (Perseverance)

Asst. Lay Director Teresa Harris  
Emily Landsford  
Elaine Wildsmith  
Alisha mcDonald  
Donna Ambrosius  
Kristy Akin

Spiritual Director Angela Martin (Means of Grace)

Asst. Spiritual Directors Buster Timmons  
Ricky Ruston  
Carolyn Goza  
Sidne Martin

Music Linn Lower

Asst. Table Leaders Becky Austin (Priesthood)  
Lucy Thrialkill (Study)  
Suzanne Frazier (Discipleship)  
Melissa Jarrell (Changing Our World)  
TBA (Christian Action)  
Lisa Elliot (Body of Christ)  
Roxanne Edsall (Life In Piety)

Table Leaders Rhonda Rush  
Tammy Carpenter  
Andrea VonHerman  
LaShawn Scholl  
Margeret Ruston  
TBA  
TBA

Board Reps. Julie English, Ronnie Harris

**Committees**

Agape: TBA

Meal Service: Gene Thraikill 205-744-8370

Refreshments: Denise Cone 205-836-????

72-Hour Prayer Vigil: Bethany Ivey 205-908-5333

Housing: Martin VonHerman 205-426-8030

Candlelight: Laura Meyers 205-919-2479

Clean-up: Neal Goza 205-510-6786

Closing: TBA

Entertainment: George Scroggins 256-927-3090

Follow-up: TBA

Speakers' Prayer Chapel: TBA

Sponsors' Hour: Dianna McQueen 205-988-3051

Worship: Pam Branham 205-681-1872

Photographer: Larry Matthews 205-602-8733

Humble Servant: Butch Wildsmith 205-234-4768

Name	City	Sponsor
Belette Kellum	Guntersville	Kaye Dean

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## *The Grapevine*

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

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### **WELCOME...**

The Emmaus Board  
would like to welcome  
*Mac Buttram*  
as the new Community  
Spiritual Director for  
the coming year!

May God bless you,  
Mac!

### *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 Bud Vann