

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

Vol. 13 No. 6

December 2015

Community Humble Servants

Lori Mills
Lay Director

Mac Buttram
Spiritual Director

Mike Shotts
Asst. Lay Director

Tony Jones
Asst. Spiritual Director

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

Ted Hagler
Treasurer

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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 Sacucci
Mike Shotts
Roberta Wycoff
Judy Trull
Board Representatives

Kim Anderson
Literature

Jim Sims
Supplies

Kay Seale
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

Thank you for a great year

By **LORIMILLS**
Lay Director

As I write this article, my kitchen is filled with the smell of sweet potatoes and pecan pie. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. Like many of you, I will gather with family to spend time together and share a wonderful meal. This time of year we pause to reflect and give thanks to God for who He is and all He has done for us. We also begin to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. This is such a special time of the year.

As I think back over this year, there are so many things for which I'm thankful. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for YOU – the Alabama Emmaus Community. I'm thankful for each and every one of you. "I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus." – I Corinthians 1:4. Serving with you this year has been an amazing experience. I have met so many new people, and I count each of you as friends. There are so many blessings in Emmaus, but the most important to me are the relationships. I thank God that our paths have crossed through

the Walk to Emmaus. The body of Christ is truly beautiful.

I want to encourage you to continue to be intentional in your dedication to our community through sponsorship and involvement in your clusters and reunion groups. Our clusters and reunion groups keep us refreshed and renewed in order to be effective sponsors. Without these things, our community would decline. My life was changed on Emmaus Walk 249. I want to continue to be active in my cluster, my reunion group, and through sponsorship to do my part in passing on the blessings of Emmaus. I know that you feel the same and you want Emmaus to live and thrive.

We have walked the road together this year. I look forward to continuing the journey with you as we share with each other and with new pilgrims. Again, thank you so much for the opportunity to serve the Alabama Emmaus Community. "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?" Walk on, friends.

I love you all.

Walks all are 'best ever'

By **MAC BUTTRAM**
Spiritual Director

"How was the Walk?"
"Best one ever—there's never been a bad one."

That's a pretty common exchange following Emmaus Walks on which I have been a team member. Including my own, I have participated in some capacity in twenty-six Emmaus Walks.

However, there is one Walk that stands out to me—Alabama Emmaus Walk #21, November 29 through December 2, 1984. It was the first Walk I worked following my own Walk #1. One reason it stands out is that my Emmaus sponsors, Ella and Bert

Goodwin, were team members. Ella is my mother's sister and she was an Assistant Lay Director on Walk #21—Bert was an Assistant Spiritual Director, as was I.

There were other team members whom I had never met before and have become great friends over the years. Also, there were pilgrims on that Walk whom I met and have continued to work with on other Emmaus Walks.

As I have gone back and reviewed the team members and pilgrims, I am also reminded that there were those who were there because the Alabama Emmaus Community was assisting the beginning of the Central Ala-

bama Emmaus Community, just as the Nashville Emmaus Community assisted us. There was one pilgrim who I had known when she was a little girl.

One pilgrim had been a mentor to me at my home church. And, there were three pilgrims who received agape letters from their pastor who had died just prior to the Walk.

I gave the clergy talk Justifying Grace. I do not recall working from an outline as extensive as the ones we have today, but in rereading the talk I think it is a pretty good one.

(Please see Buttram Page 2.)

Hope in the manger

By **CAROLYN PHILLIPS**
Community Coordinator

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ~ Isaiah 41:10

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ~ Romans 12:12

We recently watched a Christmas movie special about a family about to lose their family farm from indebtedness. It had been in the family for many decades and the crops from the farm were their livelihood. Many things were done to raise the money and it finally came down to days before the foreclosure would take place and all seemed lost to the daughter in particular. The father points to the Nativity and tells her that the Christ Child was born and that gives us all hope. Well all things worked together and they were able to save the farm and the hope was realized.

The good news was and is that the baby born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago was Christ the Savior. He represented hope for all men and all nations. The really good news is that the baby grew up, got up and walked among us. He lived as one of us and knew our struggles, fears, sorrows, hopes and joys. The really, really good news is that he walks among us still. He loves and cares for us still. Hallelujah!

So many times I have to remember that I should always have hope no matter how things might be going. This year has been a year of ups and downs and as I look back I realize that He was there with me all the time.

This Christmas season, let hope abide and abound!
Carolyn Phillips, Talladega 1st UMC
AL Emmaus Walk 63, Table of Ruth

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Editor's Note: The team list for Walk 451 has had significant changes, warranting the list to be republished. Please use the following when contacting team members.

Alabama Emmaus Walk 451 January 28-31, 2016

Lay Director	Debra Baker (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Lisa Smith (Priority) Leasha Laster Fourth Day) Fran Elmore Ann Frazier Sherri Watson Tami Kelly
Spiritual Director	Mark Adams (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Chris Herbert (Prevenient Grace) Junior Plunkett (Justifying Grace) Carl Long (Sanctifying Grace) Mark Parris (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Bob Bentley
Asst. Table Leaders	Alice Edwards (Priesthood) Terri Shaddox (Study) Paula Wright (Discipleship) Nancy Barker (Changing Our World) Barbara harris (Christian Action) Rebecca Killebrew (Body of Christ) Linda Kirby (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Page Hannah Jan Eddleman Marlene Little ANita Long Vivian McRae Tina Upton Vanessa Vandergriff
Board Reps.	Jim Harris
Committees	
Agape:	Wendy Zahn 256-505-7889
Meal Service:	Paul Meigs 256-582-6471
Refreshments:	Tricia Harnen 256-728-8035
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Susan Tanner 256-202-7118
Housing:	Judy Allred 256-506-1158
Candlelight:	Shane Vandergriff 256-582-2006
Clean-up:	Lamar Heit 256-659-6161
Closing:	Wayne Rice 256-960-2140
Entertainment:	Carol Scorggins 256-766-4102
Follow-up:	Joan Rice 256-878-8357
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Glenda Kilpatrick 256-561-3686
Sponsors' Hour:	Keith Monk 256-582-3116
Worship:	TBA
Photographer:	Susan Tanner 256-202-7118
Humble Servant:	Charlie Baker 256-558-1444

Buttram

(Continued From Page 1.)

A portion of the talk that probably did come from an outline is quite beneficial as I review it today.

“There are 3 ways in which I began to see God’s activity must be present in my acceptance of him:

1. God does not dictate my response—the decisions I make are free acts of my own will. I cannot ride on anyone else’s coattails.

2. God touches my emotions—I respond with enthusiasm but do not depend on feelings. Someone said, “It’s not how high you jump (when you are justified) but how straight you walk when you hit the ground.”

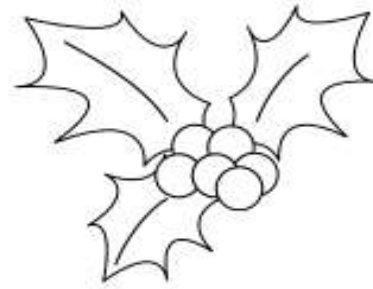
3. God appeals to my intellect—I must be confident that my faith is reasonable. Mine is a lifelong seeking to have a reasonable understanding of my faith.”

My closing paragraph emphasizes the importance of us remaining involved in the Emmaus Community:

“While God’s grace is the enabling factor for change in one’s life, you and I must be aware that throughout our lives we will undergo continuous conversion. The disciplines of prayer, scripture reading, meditation, and action allow God’s grace to convert our wills to his will.

These same disciplines enable us to put on the mind and heart of Jesus Christ. The vivid examples the scriptures present of Jesus remind us of the need for continuous conversion. (A line from) a favorite song: ‘Why should I worry, why should I fret? I’ve got a Mansion Builder who’s not through with me yet.’”

May love be of every bright color for you,
Mac



Merry Christmas
and
Blessed New Year
from your
Alabama Emmaus
Board of Directors!

UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
451	Jan 28-31	Debra Baker	Mark Adams	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Jim Harris
452	Feb 18-21	Betty Reynolds	Dallas Culver	Franklin/Haleyville/ Hamilton	Ricky Hall
453	Mar 3-6	Jerry Nelson	Rick Owen	Huntsville/Madison	Billy Bell
454	Mar 31-Apr 3	Kay Seale	Sandra Locke- Godbey	Shoals/Moulton/ Decatur/Athens	Rod Alexander

*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 452
February 18-21, 2016**

Lay Director	Betty Reynolds (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Patti Gann (Priority) Alicia Ward (Fourth Day) Della Ann Howell Carlin A. Burrow Gloria McKee Linda Alldredge
Spiritual Director	Dallas Culver (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Jeff Fleming (Prevenient Grace) Scott Ward (Justifying Grace) Tim Alexander (Sanctifying Grace) Mitch Neathery (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Debbie Wood
Asst. Table Leaders	Joan Cleveland (Priesthood) Konnie Thrasher (Study) Jackie Mize (Discipleship) Ginger Stone (Changing Our World) Diane Lynch (Christian Action) Nancy Bowling (Body of Christ) Rebekah Wiginton (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Sandy Freeman Jolene Stockton Kim Perdue Jennifer Swinney Lauren Hellums Ann Vinson Lynda Hall
Board Reps.	Rick Hall, Freda Crumpton

Committees

Agape:	Rocky Stone	256-332-0406
Meal Service:	Ronald Crumpton	205-486-3261
Refreshments:	Deanna Shotts	205-921-7614
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Charlie McAfee	205-269-1812
Housing:	David McNutt	205-486-5073
Candlelight:	Chris Burcham	256-577-3993
Clean-up:	Tony Mize	205-486-2787
Closing:	Paul Huffman	256-668-0451
Entertainment:	Sheila Jones	205-921-1606
Follow-up:	Beth Riggs	205-495-8150
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	George Farris	205-486-2003
Sponsors' Hour:	Lee Page	256-356-9946
Worship:	Cyndi Norris	205-487-6679
Photographer:	Will King	205-269-3076
Humble Servant:	Tony Mize	

Name	City	Sponsor
Karen Wright	Albertville	Pam Gilliland
Jane Fox	Albertville	Diana Mobley
Reba Cofield	Albertville	Nancy Beason & Carol Cranford
Bobbi Hill	Boaz	Phillip Gilliland
Cathy Jackson	Boaz	Gail Gibson
Erica Barnett	Cedar Bluff	Amy & Chris Self
Maria Stanford	Cullman	Charlie & Dianne Herfurth & Susan Copeland
Bonnie Bodine	Guntersville	Chris Bodine & Mark Bissonnette
Virginia Key	Hanceville	Sandy Parker
Annette Waters	Hueytown	Mary Clyde & Joe Moore
Martha Taylor	Madison	Dee Staggs
Tandy Barco	Oneonta	Linda Faust
Mary Hill	Piedmont	Shelia Saccucci
Susan Caples	Tuscaloosa	Sherri Trick & Cathy Randall

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 453
March 3-6, 2016**

Lay Director	Jerry Nelson (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Terry Lewis (Priority) Mark Hedden (Fourth Day) Rock Holt Charles Jones Tim Cotton Bruce Parris
Spiritual Director	Rick Owen (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Charles Gattis (Prevenient Grace) Bob Murray (Justifying Grace) TBA (Sanctifying Grace) David Socha (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Spike McRoy
Asst. Table Leaders	Chris Comer (Priesthood) Lee Riddle (Study) Keith Noren (Discipleship) Dave Wilson (Changing Our World) Bryan Paparella (Christian Action) Jeremy Banks (Body of Christ) Vern Spearman (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Vann Bragg John Cole Rusty Congo Bill Johnson Al Killen Patrick Nelson Dick Richardson
Board Reps.	Billy Bell, Bill Beatty

Committees

Agape:	Tom Panucci	256-658-9191
Meal Service:	Dee Ann Creel	256-682-5345
Refreshments:	Stacy Hedden	256-509-6127
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	John Young	256-650-5012
Housing:	Karen Cotton	256-651-9450
Candlelight:	Richard Blocker	256-830-5484
Clean-up:	Dottie Nelson	205-907-0456
Closing:	Anne Whitfield	256-534-2193
Entertainment:	Gary Crawford	256-508-2437
Follow-up:	Cheri Crawford	256-508-2437
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jackie Albrecht	256-509-5347
Sponsors' Hour:	Roger Crowson	256-337-3014
Worship:	Dianne Lyrene	256-339-1575
Photographer:	TBA	
Humble Servant:	Dottie Nelson	

Name	City	Sponsor
Stephen Milstead	Alabaster	Terri Milstead
Brian Grantham	Athens	Ruth Smith
Ragan Boling	Birmingham	Robert Gunn
Jason Smith	Boaz	Paul Vick
Kory Miller	Columbus	Sarah Rickert & Michelle Huff
Bob Murphy	Crossville	J. D. Ryan
David Hays	Cullman	Shirley Hays
Scott Montgomery	Fayette	Mary Ham
Michael Carr	Florence	Marshall Lewey
Eric Slaton	Geraldine	Gail & Lamar Hiatt
Will Niewierski	Huntsville	Al & Jana Killen
Mack Savage	Huntsville	Chris Martin
Terry Holcombe	Laceys Spring	Gary McRae
Arthur Morris	Madison	Vern Spearman
Courtney Guasti	Madison	Dorothy Havens
John Fillebaum	McCalla	Susan Blackmon
Steve Terry	Moulton	Ken Seale
Wes Jones	Moulton	Cecil Caine & Tim Littrell
John Kimbrough	Moulton	Tim Littrell and Cecil Caine
Terry Jacobs	Northport	Joe Powell
Roy Barco	Oneonta	Berry Faust
Keenan Keil	Phil Campbell	Eddie & Kathy Britton
Kaylon Gilley	Piedmont	Shelia Saccucci
Tim Davis	Rainbow City	Jeff Prince
Shawn Morrison	Trussville	Bill Nielsen & William Noland
Robert Timmons	Tuscumbia	Kendrick Burns
Michael King	Union Grove	Mike & Beverly Simpson

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

The
Board of Directors
would like to
thank
Lori Mills
for her service
to the Community
this past year!
God Bless You,
Lori!

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 **Bill Ham (146)**

The family of **Watt Washington (97: RM)**