

# The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

Vol. 14 No. 1

February 2016

## Community Humble Servants

**Mike Shotts**  
Lay Director

**Mac Buttram**  
Spiritual Director

**Ricky Hall**  
Asst. Lay Director

**Tony Jones**  
Asst. Spiritual Director

**Carolyn Phillips**  
Community Coordinator

**Ted Hagler**  
Treasurer

**Rod Alexander**  
**Billy Beatty**  
**Billy Bell**  
**Lane Berry**  
**Butch Burgess**  
**Jacque Clay**  
**Ruth Ann Clay**  
**Freda Crumpton**  
**Butch Fennell**  
**Julie English**  
**Betsy Haas**  
**Jim Harris**  
**Leasha Laster**  
**Lori Mills**  
**Bill Prestridge**  
**Jane Sims**  
Board Representatives

**TBD**  
Literature

**Bob Manney**  
Supplies

**Kay Seale**  
Community Agape

**Dan Bell**  
Name Tags

## Emmaus is the same, but changing

By **MIKE SHOTTS**  
Lay Director

I am deeply honored to be serving as your Community Lay Director for 2016 and it is a privilege to serve with this year's Emmaus Board Members from the various cluster groupings. I was a pilgrim on Emmaus Walk #68, which was held in the fall of 1989, and the changes that have occurred during that time are dramatic.

I remember that Barry Turner was my Lay Director and WG Henry was the Spiritual Director. We had a full number of pilgrims, which were 49 at the time. WG was to become my pastor and later my Spiritual Director, when I was selected to be a Lay Director. Emmaus had a life changing effect in my life and I truly feel that Jesus used Emmaus to allow me to grow in the Spirit during the past years of my life.

I did take a 5 year hiatus of being involved in Emmaus. During the last 5 years prior to retiring, I let work take priority in my life and I missed the Emmaus program very much.

I noticed changes, more rules than I remem-

bered in the past, cluster groupings, and two board reps on a walk. However, as in work and other things, change must happen.

We may love the way things were in the past, but change is a constant that we must accept. One of the things we now face in Emmaus, is a decline in attendance. About 10 years back, we had an average waiting list of 6 months to attend an Emmaus Walk.

Five years ago, we averaged 42 pilgrims on each Walk for the year. As 2015 ends, we have no waiting lists and we averaged 27 pilgrims per Walk, for the year. At the start of 2014, we were having 16 walks per year. In 2016, we will have 11 walks and in 2017, we will have 10 walks per year. I believe the same trend is happening in our local Churches.

The Board has been pushing Sponsorship, in the past several years, both in the context of being a "good" sponsor, as well as effectively sponsoring people on the Walk to Emmaus. The market for sponsoring people is not saturated. We

(Please see Buttram Page 2.)

## "It is I who have called you."

By **MAC BUTTRAM**  
Spiritual Director

Over the seventy-two hours of a Walk to Emmaus there are many, many "treasures" shared—words of wisdom and inspiration. Over the years I have heard some and missed some. Here is a portion of the Lay Director's closing words on the first night:

"Remember, that it was not circumstances, nor a friend, nor a fellow worker, nor a pastor . . . nor anything or anyone . . . that has brought you here. IT IS I WHO HAVE CALLED YOU."

It's amazing how many people it takes to bring all aspects of an Emmaus Walk together—there are dozens first line and hundreds by the time

you include other aspects outside the immediate needs of the pilgrims. Yet God says, "It is I who have called you."

None of us would have gone on our Walk without a sponsor. All of us were supported on our Walks by friends and pastors. Yet, again, God says, "It is I who have called you."

All of us have heard someone declare (regarding their Walk), "It was the perfect time for me to go. The talks I heard and the friends I made were exactly what I needed right now." And God says, "It is I who have called you."

Sometimes I think we use the term "call" and expect everyone to easily identify with it. Although I have used the term

throughout my life and ministry, I have never heard a literal "call" from God.

I love the story of Samuel's call in 1 Samuel chapter 3, where he actually hears the voice of God calling him. I used to think that if Samuel heard God's call then it is not too much for me to expect to also hear from God. It has never worked out that way—I have yet to hear that audible call from God's voice.

However, I have "heard" that call in other ways. It has come, interestingly enough, from sources listed in the Lay Director's words: "circumstances, . . . a friend, . . . a fellow worker, . . . a pastor . . ." God uses our experiences and

(Please see Buttram Page 2.)

## HE is the original

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS  
Community Coordinator

An original is described as the very first. It is created directly and personally by a particular artist, not a copy or imitation. It can serve as a model or basis for imitations or copies.

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; 2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. *Mark 1: 1-3*

Recently, Mattel announced that there will be newly designed Barbie dolls. They will be unlike the original which is now 57 years old. Coca-Cola is no longer an original - we have Caffeine-Free Coke, Diet Coke, Coke Zero and Coke Life. KFC has crispy chicken, but they still sell more of the original recipe.

Now I don't have a problem with new ideas or new products but I think there is one thing that can never be duplicated. That is our Savior, Jesus Christ - He has been and always will be our Savior. There are over 200 names for Jesus but He is still the same. He is called Counselor, Everlasting Father, Good Shepherd, and Prince of Peace. We all have our favorites. Our Savior is an original but we as his followers have no better model to copy or imitate.

Every Emmaus Walk is an original even though all walks are built on the same model and follow the same instructions and guidelines. The team makes each walk special through their personal testimonies and acts of agape. Every walk is a special event in the lives of the pilgrims which will never be duplicated. For every pilgrim, their walk is an original.

On the walk, we should always remember to follow the model and let it be wrapped in the love and guidance of our Father. In our personal journeys, we must strive to grow closer to God by following the example set forth by Christ.

We have openings on upcoming walks. If you have a pilgrim who is interested in attending please pray about it and if led to do so offer this opportunity to your friend. Things may have changed over the years in the numbers of walks and pilgrims but we still have the model of Christ to present them.

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

## *The Grapevine*

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## *Franklin donates*

The Franklin County Cluster has made another donation to the Alabama Emmaus Community. New Conference Room tables have been donated at a cost of \$1,100 for use on Emmaus Walks. Seven round tables for pilgrim use, and four other tables for ALD and ASD will be in place for walk #452. Franklin County recently donated new tables for the dining area and these are already in use. In total, Franklin county has recently contributed approximately \$2500 to the Alabama Emmaus Community for pilgrim use.

A big "THANK YOU" goes out from the Alabama Emmaus Community and the Emmaus Board of Directors to our brothers and sisters in the Franklin County Cluster!

## Thank you, Lori Mills

The Emmaus Community and Board of Directors would like to thank 2015 Community Lay Director Lori Mills for her service in 2015, and as she continues into 2016, as the Lay Director Emeritus. Her leadership and personality were a sound foundation during the year and we look forward to her continued assistance in the future.

## Shotts

(Continued From Page 1.)

have not sponsored "all" the people we know, yet attendance is declining at Emmaus, as well as our local Churches.

Emmaus is not the key to solving Church attendance, but it could be an important fact in starting a revival within our local Churches. Remember, the goal of Emmaus is to renew the Church as the Body of Christ.

The Board of Directors at the January meeting usually sets our priorities for the upcoming year. This year we want our Emmaus Community to work toward three goals:

1. Increase and improve Reunion Groups. We have a high percentage of pilgrims who we never see again after they attend follow up. Try to involve these new pilgrims in a reunion group and push reunion groups for those not involved. Small group involvement grows our local Churches and keep us connected.

2. Concentrate on involving minority groups, as well as, younger people in Emmaus. If clusters could provide scholarships for a couple in a minority Church, and even the pastor, to attend Emmaus. Look at your cluster, I would guess that they are more people over 50 than under. We need a younger base to grow the Emmaus Community.

3. We are asking cluster leadership to provide a link to the Emmaus newsletter when communicating electronically with our community. We have so many non-active, as well as active Emmaus members, that never read the newsletter.

We hope this will provide some connection again to the Emmaus Community.

Think and pray about what you can do to improve reunion groups in your local cluster. Who can we reach outside of our local church, that would benefit from the Emmaus experience and what we can do to bring back the inactive and maintain the active? Christ IS Depending on You to be faithful to our calling, through the renewing of our minds.

## Servants change

The Alabama Emmaus Community and Board of Directors would like to thank Kim and Jeff Anderson, as well as, Jim Sims for their dedication and service to the Alabama Emmaus Community. Kim and Jeff have been serving as our "Literature" contacts (book table), while Jim has been the "Walk Supply" person. Both of these positions require conscientious people to consistently provide materials on a timely basis.

Bob Manney will be replacing Jim Sims, who is now the Assistant Community Treasurer. Bob lives in Hayden and can be reached at <rjanney@yahoo.com> or at 205-647-2143. The Community would like to thank Bob for his upcoming service, which will start with Walk #452 in February. At this writing, a replacement for Kim has not been voted upon by the board.

## Buttram

(Continued From Page 1.)

people around us to "speak" to us and "call" us. I also hear that "call" when reading and reflecting on scripture. If I'm not hearing, then I'm probably not in places or activities that foster that possibility. I am sure God called many times and I just wasn't available.

All of us are potential sponsors of pilgrims for the Walk to Emmaus. Within our circle of friends, co-workers, family, and church there are persons who will benefit from going on a Walk. More importantly, our churches need the leaders who are fostered and nurtured in the Walk to Emmaus. While God says, "It is I who have called you," that call cannot be fulfilled without our action.

May love be of every bright color for you,  
Mac

## Killen 5k run/walk benefits Sumatanga

Each spring, the Shoals Cluster holds the Danny Killen Memorial Run/Walk to Emmaus to benefit Camp Sumatanga. This is a 5K run and a 1 mile walk through beautiful, historic, downtown Tuscumbia.

This year's event will be April 16, and as in previous years, it will be headquartered in the Family Life Center of Tuscumbia First United Methodist Church at 104 East Third Street.

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. The 5K run will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the 1 mile walk will begin at 9:15. Pre-registration fees before March 31 are \$15.00 for the 5K and \$10 for the walk; after that date the 5K is \$18.00 and the walk is \$12.00.

Corporate sponsorships are available as follows: Platinum (\$1000), Gold (\$500.00), Silver (\$250.00), Bronze (\$100.00). Sponsorship fee payments and contracts are due March 31, 2016. Checks should be made to Camp Sumatanga. Please contact Megan Smith for contracts and for more information at 256-810-7689 or [smith.megan.a@gmail.com](mailto:smith.megan.a@gmail.com). Benefits include company logo on official t-shirt, free registration for employees per size of sponsorship, and for Platinum sponsors, top billing on all media and social ads.

This event is in memory of Danny Killen, beloved Shoals area sports figure. All proceeds go to Camp Sumatanga.

## UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPIRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
<b>453</b>	<b>Mar 3-6</b>	<b>Jerry Nelson</b>	<b>Rick Owen</b>	<b>Huntsville/Madison</b>	<b>Billy Bell/Billy Beatty</b>
454	Mar 31-Apr 3	Kay Seale	Sandra Locke-Godbey	Shoals/Moulton/Decatur/Athens	Rod Alexander/Leasha Laster
<b>455</b>	<b>Apr 14-17</b>	<b>Alan Wilson</b>	<b>Tim Alexander</b>	<b>Cullman/Oneonta Franklin/Hamilton/Haleyville</b>	<b>Lane Berry/Ricky Hall</b>
456	May 12-15	Willie Johnson	Todd Henderson	Cheaha/East Alabama	Bill Prestridge/Butch Fennell
457	Aug 11-14	Erin Burns	Tim Alexander	Tuscaloosa./West Ala	Betsy Haas/Butch Burgess
<b>458</b>	<b>Aug 25-28</b>	<b>Will Clay</b>	<b>Mark Parris</b>	<b>Marshall/Gadsden Cherokee-Dekalb</b>	<b>Jim Harris/Jacque Clay</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 454  
March 31-April 3, 2016**

Lay Director	Kay Seale (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Lynn Litrell (Priority) Patsy Killen (Fourth Day) Cathy Dutton Melanie Little Vicki Morese Marketta Terry
Spiritual Director	Sandra Locke-Godbey (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Kelly Clem (Prevenient Grace) Dudley Brock (Justifying Grace) Carl Long (Sanctifying Grace) Amy Howard (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Lesli Blair (Priesthood) Anne Deegan (Study) Martha Keenum (Discipleship) Barbara Carroll (Changing Our World) Mary lee Dobbins (Christian Action) Cindy Jackson (Body of Christ) Debbie Ament (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Carol Alexander Cathy Brett Pam Coan Jean Crawford Kris Murphy Lucretia Woodroof Evon Zills
Board Rep.	Rod Alexander, Leasha Laster

**Committees**

Agape:	Vickie Terry	256-974-7834
Meal Service:	Rosemary Lewey	256-565-7356
Refreshments:	Barbara Chenault	256-476-0116
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Mindy Keenum	256-214-0503
Housing:	Bill Jordan	256-710-1486
Candlelight:	Mitch Dobbins	256-366-6323
Clean-up:	Ken Seale	256-974-3109
Closing:	Kermit Campbell	256-381-1326
Entertainment:	Don Shelton	256-214-2454
Follow-up:	Nancy Pinion	256-303-1811
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Linda Amith	256-974-9243
Sponsors' Hour:	Frederick Martin	256-874-0957
Worship:	Bobbi Shelton	256-522-7331
Photographer:	John Godbey	256-350-5149
Humble Servant:	Ken Seale	256-974-3109

Name	City	Sponsor
Susan Green-Preston	Albertville	Tammy Jackson
Karen George	Arab	Beverly Simpson
Prissy Summers	Birmingham	Anne Carter
Meg Brooke	Birmingham	Anne Carter
Joan Garrett	Columbiana	Melissa Self Patrick
Carolyn Jones	Cullman	Denise Nails/Doyle Jones
Bobbie Skelton	Decatur	Barbara Kirby
Jennifer Nelms	Gadsden	Brandy Hyatt
Billie Lochamy	Hoover	Anne Carter
Keshia Diesing	Jacksonville	Bernice George
Benita Davis	Madison	William & Beatrice Bowen
Martha Taylor	Madison	Dee Staggs
Jennifer Wilcoxson	Muscle Shoals	Beth Wilcoxson
Angie Sullivan	Owens Cross Rds.	Deborah Taylor
Amy McMahan	Pelham	Melissa Cooper
Brandy Frost	Tuscaloosa	Stephen Frost
Brenda Wright	Vernon	Joyce Anne Woods

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 455  
April 14-17, 2016**

Lay Director	Alan Wilson (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Jamey Cosby (Priority) Buddy Perdue (Fourth Day) Ken Farr Jim Sims David Speegle Bill Cofield
Spiritual Director	Tim Alexander (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Ron Howard (Prevenient Grace) Mike Brinkman (Justifying Grace) Jeff Fleming (Sanctifying Grace) Elliott Gordon (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Pat Seal
Asst. Table Leaders	Kevin Posey (Priesthood) Edgar Pruitt (Study) Bob Colburn (Discipleship) Chris Burcham (Changing Our World) Charlie Herfurth (Christian Action) James Webb (Body of Christ) Bill Barnett (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Jim Doak Mark Skillman Rocky Stone Larry Gilmer Bob Manney Zachary Holmes Jeff Frame
Board Reps.	Ricky Hall, Lane Berry

**Committees**

Agape:	Susan Ledbetter	256-324-0281
Meal Service:	Jolene Stockton	256-332-0748
Refreshments:	Kathy Hall	256-332-0703
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Max Moody	205-274-7682
Housing:	Jennifer Swinney	256-627-0731
Candlelight:	Lee Page	256-356-9946
Clean-up:	Neal Brooks	205-274-7203
Closing:	Neal Brooks	
Entertainment:	Jamey Cosby	256-710-8296
Follow-up:	Jo King	256-734-8031
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Betty Fowler	205-559-7422
Sponsors' Hour:	Delores Sparks	256-668-2141
Worship:	Kim Perdue	256-331-0140
Photographer:	Denise Wilson	256-627-1561
Humble Servant:	Denise Wilson	

Name	City	Sponsor
Doug Lewis	Aliceville	Kathy Marine
Scott Montgomery	Fayette	Mary Ham
Marvin McInish	Hayden	Jim Morton & Don Evans
Terry Jacobs	Northport	Joe Powell

## *The Grapevine*

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

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The  
Board of Directors  
would like to  
***WELCOME***  
Mike Shotts  
as our new  
Community  
Lay Director!!

### *Praying for You*

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

**Nancy Barker (95)**, for the loss of her husband, **Sonny Barker (132)**, and **Catharine Willis (189)** and **Aimee Blackburn (279)**, for the loss of their father

**Becky Blair (397)**, for the loss of her son, Andrew "Andy" Blair

The family of **Floyd Chaplin (31)**