

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

Vol. 14 No. 2

April 2016

Community Humble Servants

Mike Shotts
Lay Director

Mac Buttram
Spiritual Director

Ricky Hall
Asst. Lay Director

Tony Jones
Asst. Spiritual Director

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Community Coordinator

Ted Hagler
Treasurer

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Literature

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Supplies

Kay Seale
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

Clergy partnership is crucial

By **MIKESHOTTS**
Lay Director

Ephesians 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Clergy are critical elements in the Walk to Emmaus. The program depends on the partnership between laity and clergy. This partnership is a primary reason the Walk to Emmaus has been so successful.

I remember listening to clergy in the past, such as Lon Euler, Claude Whitehead and Bert Goodwin, and the wisdom and spirit they imparted to pilgrims and the community. Today we have clergy, to whom the mantel has been passed, who continue the traditions that have been set before them.

However, I am somewhat concerned that in the future, we may not have the clergy base to draw from. We are lucky that we have several "younger" clergy who are involved in Emmaus, but as I note the pilgrim sheets, the listing for clergy is not at the same percentage as in the past.

Has your pastor attended the Walk to

Emmaus? Has your youth Pastor or Music Director attended? Ask them.... The Pastor is one of the factors that determine if a Church is active in Emmaus or not. If the Pastor has not attended Emmaus, it's like the car dealership that states "You won't know, until you go." There are not many pastors that should turn down something, that will produce Church leaders and help grow their Church.

The Emmaus Walk is ecumenical; it is not a Bible Study. We should park doctrine and denominations at the door. It does not matter what denomination, what sex, or what age. We need to continue the unity of the Spirit.

On a recent Emmaus walk, we had a retired United Methodist clergy, who was 86 years old. He was the first person to get up at closing and speak. He told us how his life had been empty for several years, but now he felt his life was full.

He told everyone what a great time he had experienced on this walk, how his spirit had been renewed and he wanted to spend the few remain-

(Please see Shotts Page 2.)

What is different in us?

By **MACBUTTRAM**
Spiritual Director

A few weeks ago I was talking with a friend who has been a part of the Alabama Emmaus Community since its beginning. We were discussing the walks we had worked, the people we had worked with and our perceived status of Emmaus today. The question came up, "Has the Walk to Emmaus made a difference in the churches in Alabama? Are United Methodist churches stronger? Are other denominations stronger?"

I'm not sure of a way to get quantitative information to answer those questions. As far as I know, there are no statistics relative to church membership or attendance that in-

dicates the impact of Emmaus on those numbers. We do know that some 12,000 to 15,000 pilgrims have attended Alabama Emmaus Community walks, so we can be certain that has had some influence.

I know that there have been conversions, sanctifications, renewals of faith and some who answered the call to full and part-time pastoral ministry. Emmaus has provided a vehicle for the Holy Spirit to influence the lives and ministries of people who have never been in the conference room through many of those persons.

But the real question is not about how church or an area has been influenced, it's about how each of us has responded to the Walk to Emmaus. What is differ-

ent about my life that is not the same because of my Walk? Is there something I am doing that I would not have done had it not been for Emmaus?

For me, Emmaus has helped me see Christ in people I would have been reluctant to get close to before. To some degree each of us believes we have answers and insights no one else has—even a little smug in our faith. But it has been a joy for me to witness the transformation of dozens of pilgrims and team members during the 72 hours of more than two dozen walks. That reminds me of God's unconditional love for all people of every walk of life. Thus the

(Please see Buttram Page 2.)

Spring brings new decisions

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

~ Romans 6:4

What a beautiful time of the year! I was out on our deck last night and found a petunia from last year blooming and a gerbera daisy budding out. It is amazing what the sun can pull out of the ground. We have just celebrated God pulling his Son out of the ground so why should we be surprised? It is such a time to feel a need for wanting things – including ourselves – to be made new. To change our old ways and find the meaning for our life that was meant just for us. Do we search for meaning and the right path to follow? I think at some time in our life we have all been faced with this decision.

These words from Henri Nouwen's *Bread for the Journey* offer sound advice for those who seek a new path:

"So many terrible things happen every day that we start wondering whether the few things we do ourselves make any sense. When people are starving only a few thousand miles away, when wars are raging close to our borders, when countless people in our cities have no homes to live in, our own activities look futile. Such considerations, however, can paralyze and depress us.

Here the word 'call' becomes important. We are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. But each of us has our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. We have to keep asking God to help us see clearly what our call is and to give us the strength to live out that call with trust. Then we will discover that our faithfulness to a small task is the most healing response to the illnesses of our time."

For myself I pray for a clear sense of direction for each day – Amen.

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

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Conference room gets new projector

The Alabama Emmaus Community would like to thank Julie English and the Birmingham South Cluster for donating a new projector for the Emmaus Conference Room.

The old projector has been giving us issues for the past several weeks and finally stopped working. We would also like show our appreciation to Lane Berry, who pick up the new projector and install it in the conference room.

Thanks again to everyone who assisted with this new projector.

Buttram

(Continued From Page 1.)

transformation is as much in me as it is in them.

But I have also witnessed those who "went to the mountaintop" only to return to their same old world. To be sure, for some of those Emmaus was just one of many mountaintop experiences for them—there were other spiritual experiences just as vital.

We can spend our time judging and critiquing what other people are doing in their faith journey, but we first need to be sure that our Fourth Day is exhibiting the spirit of the fifteen talks we heard that impacted our faith.

Remember the two question we were asked to respond to at Closing:

What did my Walk mean to me?

What am I going to do about it?

My Walk was 34 years ago next month. Even though it's been a long time and much has transpired, I am confident that I am a better disciple of Jesus Christ because of that Walk. Perhaps now would be a good time for each of us to renew our Walk and ask ourselves those questions.

May love be of every bright color for you,

Mac

Shotts

(Continued From Page 1.)

ing years of his life, sharing his renewed spirit with others. By the way, he acted like a 40 something most of the weekend and he was sponsored by another retired clergy brother.

On Sunday afternoon, of a walk, the Community Lay Director usually gives a talk to the pilgrims. In that talk, we tell the pilgrims that the next time they go to Church, give the Pastor and the Pastor's family a hug and tell them how great it is to have them in your Church. To be honest, I don't do this enough. Next time you are at Church, please do this and let them see the "Love of Emmaus" flow through you. We often forget that our clergy are human and they have the same wants as us, one of which is to be loved and to feel they are needed.

Especially tell the clergy that is involved in Emmaus "THANK YOU". We don't do this near enough and we must keep this unity, this ecumenical partnership of laity and clergy that we call the Walk to Emmaus growing.

Make Plans NOW!!!

**Attend the Annual Training Event Aug. 12-13
at Camp Sumatanga.**

**This is a time when we can fellowship as a
community and learn more about serving on a
team.**

**We will have food, fellowship, singing, and
informative training sessions.**

**Look for registration information coming this
summer.**

We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPIRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
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
458	Aug 25-28	Will Clay	Mark Parris	Marshall/Gadsden Cherokee-Dekalb	Jim Harris/ Jacque Clay
459	Sep 15-18	Karen Cotton	Sherill Clontz	Huntsville/Madison	Billy Bell/Billy Beatty
460	Oct 6-9	LaShawn Scholl	Vicki Cater	B'ham East/B'ham S/S Shelby	Julie English/Ruth Ann Clay
461	Nov 3-6	Patrice Booth	Ralph Barrow	Cheaha/East Alabama	Bill Prestridge/ Butch Fennell

***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 456
May 12-15, 2016**

Lay Director	Willie Johnson (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Dave Roush (Priority) James Dodwell (Fourth Day) Tom Carden Chris Carden Sterling Rait Lee Hamilton
Spiritual Director	Todd Henderson (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Sidne Martin (Prevenient Grace) Michael Russell (Justifying Grace) Helen Walton (Sanctifying Grace) Amy Parsons Vaughn (Obstacles)
Music	Greg Blackmon
Asst. Table Leaders	Butch Wildsmith (Priesthood) TBA (Study) Paul Webb (Discipleship) Ken Barnes (Changing Our World) TBA (Christian Action) Bill Goodwin (Body of Christ) Ronnie Harris (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Chuck Belitz Gene Rayfield
Board Rep.	Bill Prestridge, Butch Fennell

Name	City	Sponsor
Garry Lee Waugh	Albertville	Gail & Lamar Hiatt
David Summerford	Dawson	Paul Vick
Jamie Porter	Grove Oak	Kent & Linda Bouldin
Paul Carboni	Hoover	Lisa Carboni
Jeff Langhout	Huntsville	Chris Martin
Arthur Morris	Madison	Vern Spearman
Kaylon Gilley	Piedmont	Shelia Saccucci Johnson
Henry Green	Russellville	Lile Bickley
Levi Thompson	Sand Rock	Jay Myrick
Abb Javine	Tuscaloosa	Shane Spiller

Committees

Agape:	Susie Roush	256-207-0578
Meal Service:	Bob Stone	256-496-0337
Refreshments:	Teely Sampson	256-239-6263
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Debra Fennell	256-839-5933
Housing:	David Hall	256-872-4810
Candlelight:	Wallis Wesson	256-283-1694
Clean-up:	Howard Fornwalt	256-207-0729
Closing:	Roberta Wycoff	256-329-3823
Entertainment:	TBA	
Follow-up:	Kim Warren	256-378-5611
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Roxanne Henderson	256-234-6322
Sponsors' Hour:	Susan Vickers	256-329-6399
Worship:	Lisa Fornwalt	256-207-0729
Photographer:	Deb Gregory	256-861-2000
Humble Servant:	TBA	

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 457
August 11-14, 2016**

Lay Director	Erin Burns (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Katie Woodward (Priority) Terri Alexander (Fourth Day) Judy Trull Carol Fraizer Jaime Rickert Mary Ham
Spiritual Director	Tim Alexander (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Woody Jones (Prevenient Grace) Joyce Snider (Justifying Grace) Lynn Gibson (Sanctifying Grace) Bob Wilbur (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Ronnie Brasher
Asst. Table Leaders	Monica Bush (Priesthood) Jill Hannah (Study) Norma Lemley (Discipleship) Julie Kuhn (Changing Our World) Jenni Strickland (Christian Action) CJ Pruitt (Body of Christ) Michelle Gibson (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Carol Dubose Jacque Allred Dana Gilliam Angie Baines Kathy Marine Beth Grey Morris Cathy McNees
Board Reps.	Betsy Hass, Butch Burgess

Committees

Agape:	Sherry Lockhart	205-242-6048
Meal Service:	Ricky Mayers	205-662-4756
Refreshments:	Sandra Brasher	205-333-3694
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Dough Kuhn	205-662-4750
Housing:	Ryan Rickert	662-243-2190
Candlelight:	Bill Trull	205-596-3477
Clean-up:	Paul Hass	205-239-6749
Closing:	Kathy Mason	205-270-1087
Entertainment:	Jeremy Burns	205-662-4734
Follow-up:	Ken Hanby	205-339-7057
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Frank Frazier	662-328-5397
Sponsors' Hour:	Mark Scogin	205-799-3561
Worship:	Lisa Verciglio	205-339-2287
Photographer:	Jeremy Burns	
Humble Servant:	Jeremy Burns	

Name	City	Sponsor
Susan Green-Preston	Albertville	Tammy Jackson
Shelia Dean	Alexander City	Anna McCain & Paula Calhoun
Dawn Teal	Arab	Ashley Herbert
Marilyn Ingram	Birmingham	Lisa Donnell
Maria Eason	Boaz	Jacque Clay
Cathy Jackson	Boaz	Gail Gibson
Valerie Leonard	Cedar Bluff	Jason Smith & Judy Vick
Kaye Maples	Decatur	Linda & Rock Holt Robert Holt
Jane Vaughan	Decatur	Barbara Kirby
Icy Lou Bynum	Franklin	Kenneth Sanders
Bonnie Bodine	Guntersville	Chris Bodine & Mark Bissonnette
Virginia Key	Hanceville	Sandy Parker
Lynn Hogan	Hartselle	Mike Vest
Kristi Lenz	Helena	Michael Lenz
Delores Shelton	Huntsville	Ann Noren
Melody Hagler	Huntsville	Debbie Collins
Keshia Diesing	Jacksonville	Bernice George
Kelly Wilson	Jacksonville	Jason Smith & Judy Vick
Judy Vafeas	Muscle Shoals	Denise Wilson
Suellen Johnson	Northport	Sonya Guy
Allie St. John	Northport	Stanley Allen & Lorraine Robertson
Jackie Yarbrough	Oneonta	V J Brown
Tandy Barco	Oneonta	Linda Faust
Neona Martin	Owens Cross Rds.	Carlotta Maneice
Dodie Davis	Rogersville	Bobby Marsh
Tammy Vest	Somerville	Mike Vest
Brandy Frost	Tuscaloosa	Stephen Frost
Caitlynn Mills	Union Grove	Jana Killen
Shirley Buck	Union Grove	Stacey White
Brenda Wright	Vernon	Joyce Anne Woods
Jane Ferguson	Warrior	Cam Price

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

Alabama Emmaus Community Joins Facebook

In an effort to make Alabama Emmaus Community news and happenings more accessible, the Board of Directors has sanctioned a 'Closed' group on FB. The group page will primarily be used to announce the upcoming Walks and dates/times for CandleLight.

The group can only be accessed by members of the Alabama Emmaus Community. The Community Database will be the source for confirming membership in the Community and then access to the FB group.

We have 600+ members in the group already!

If you're a member, please send invitations to your Community FB friends.

If you're not a member yet, you should be able to search for the group (Alabama Emmaus Community) and request membership.

Praying for You

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

Kathryn Harrell Jones (284), for the loss of her father, Ronnie Harrell

The family of **J. W. Hallman (1: RM)**

Carolyn Goza (102), for the loss her father, Carroll Edward Snyder

Ted Anderson (316), for the loss of his mother Clarice Q, Anderson

Dessa Mallory (45), for the loss of her husband, **Lenox Mallory (24: RM)** and to **W. Joe Mallory (289)** for the loss of his brother