

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

Vol. 14 No. 3

July 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
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Board Representatives

Kathy Hall
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Kay Seale
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

Planting seeds is first step

By **MIKESHOTTS**
Lay Director

2 Corinthians 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

As I am writing this, I noticed that it is the last day of spring. As you know, spring is a time for planting and growth. I have already received several blessings this spring. Last week, I returned from a mission trip to Brazil. Our group ministered and worked in a small community, which had a school and a small Church. The pastor of the Church told us the last day, that the change in the children had been noticed by everyone. All

they had every dreamed about was someday maybe getting a job or raising children of their own. The Pastor told us that they were now talking about getting a better education and possibility traveling to other countries, learning another language and helping other people. They knew very little outside of their community and we had planted some seeds that maybe one day bloom into something special.

Also, the small seeds and plants that Deanna and I placed into the ground in April are now producing bounty. This week I have been busy gathering beans, squash and other garden items, while Dee has started freezing and canning the blessings God

has given us. It is a God thing that we can place such a small seed in the ground and now a few weeks later have all of these vines, green leaves and plenty of veggies. All we needed was to take a few seed and some work and God provided.

The same goes for other things in life as well. If we can plant a thought, an idea or concept and put some work with it, God will provide something special. As we are entering the 2nd half of the 2016 Emmaus year, we are starting the 2nd half off to a great start. Emmaus Walks 257 and 258 in August have very good attendance scheduled. We need to continue to pray for
(Please see Shotts Page 2.)

Continue to further Kingdom

By **MAC BUTTRAM**
Spiritual Director

I attended Alabama Emmaus Walk #1 in May, 1982. During this year that I have served as Community Spiritual Director, I have spent more time reflecting on my Walk and the impact it has had on my life than anytime during the past 34 years. Mainly, what is different about my life because of the Walk to Emmaus?

Probably the biggest influence has been the wide spectrum of people whom I have encountered. I have met and interacted with literally hundreds of people, both pilgrims and team members. I have listened to hundreds of Dying Moments and been moved by countless stories of tragedy and faith. This has enabled me to put my life experiences and spiritual perspectives in the context of a wide variety of settings. A somewhat narrow theological outlook has evolved into a wider understanding of other viewpoints. I am better able to celebrate the "bright colors (*de colores*)" that make the Walk to Emmaus a

gift to the church of Jesus Christ.

As the pastor of "Emmaus churches," I have been blessed to share ministry with many who returned from Emmaus putting into practice their answer to the question, "What am I going to do about it?" And, they accomplished that without any air of superiority. Like the Community Lay Director's talk on Sunday afternoon says, "There have been generations of Christians before there was a Walk to Emmaus."

Perhaps my biggest disappointment has been the deterioration of many of the clusters in our community. With a total of more than 20,000 people having attended the Alabama Walk to Emmaus (in the last newsletter I presented a lower number that prompted a numerical update), I would estimate that less than 10 percent participate in monthly cluster gatherings. When I ask people why they do not attend most, say that they attended for a while after their Walk, missed a couple of months,

(Please see Buttram Page 2.)

The mousetrap

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open the package. The mouse wondered what food might be in it. He was devastated to find out it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house." The pig sympathized and said, "I am so sorry Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow. She said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I am sorry for you but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard through the house – like a mousetrap catching its prey.

The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a poisonous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife and he rushed her to the hospital. She returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soups main ingredient.

But his wife's sickness continued, so friend and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well – she died. So many people came for her funeral that the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for them all.

~Author Unknown

The next time you hear someone facing a problem and think it does not concern you, remember, when one of us is threatened we are all at risk. We are involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another.

Remember: each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry – our lives are woven together for a reason! I would like for you to remember that we are all woven together in our Emmaus Community through our experiences!!

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

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Buttram

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and just never got started back. While that is certainly due to personal choices, I believe that sponsors continuing to follow up with their pilgrims could make a distinct difference.

I am humbled and honored to have served the past year. Our community is fortunate to have an effective, committed Board of Directors that is steadfast in its determination to keep the community strong. I trust you will take advantage of the opportunities offered in the August Training Event. Together we will continue to offer life changing opportunities for pilgrims to further the Kingdom of God on the earth.

May love be of every bright color for you,
Mac Buttram

Shotts

(Continued From Page 1.)

these walks, as well as walks 259 (September), 260 (October) and 261 (November), which normally have a smaller attendance. Some of you may remember that back in 1985, we were up to 10 walks per year. In 2017, we will be down to 10 walks per year. Plant a seed, ask someone you care about to attend Emmaus. You might be surprised at the growth your local Church will see.

Please don't forget about the annual training event, which will be held at Camp Sumatanga on August 12th and 13th. You should have already received the schedule in the mail. Read over the schedule for this event and return your application to Ted Hagler. We will have a memorial service on Friday night and several training classes on Saturday. It is a great time to learn about Emmaus and how things should work, as well as meet new friends. If you want to see a great Candlelight (they all are of course), but the one after the training event is usually one of the largest we see all year, come and let us praise God together and maybe plant a few seeds.

DeColores...
Mike

**The Alabama Emmaus
Community
Board of Directors
extends appreciation to
Mac Buttram for his
service as the
Community Spiritual
Director for the past 12
months.**

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	SPRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
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 458
August 25-28, 2016**

Lay Director	Will Clay (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Danny Bowlin (Priority) Bob Dehaven (Fourth Day) Don Johnson Randall Pankey Paul Meigs Mike Williams
Spiritual Director	Mark Parris (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	David Socha (Prevenient Grace) TBA (Justifying Grace) Steve Baccus(Sanctifying Grace) Sherri Reynolds (Obstacles)
Music	Rhonda Dehaven
Asst. Table Leaders	Mark Wright (Priesthood) Jonathan Harris (Study) Nathan Collier (Discipleship) TBA (Changing Our World) Jason Talton (Christian Action) Clint Stanley (Body of Christ) Terry Marbut (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Miles Green Howard Beason Steve Watson Donnie Gray Mike Cole Rod Eddleman Donald Lang
Board Rep.	Jim Harris, Jacque Clay

Committees

Agape:	Nancy Beason	256-878-2044
Meal Service:	Robert Darnell	256-413-0681
Refreshments:	Shelia Johnson	256-447-2202
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Pam Lang	256-673-1712
Housing:	Pam Myrick	256-927-5751
Candlelight:	Brenda Morgan	256-492-7476
Clean-up:	Sam Eldridge	256-266-3364
Closing:	Paula Wright	256-558-7506
Entertainment:	Mr. G & Co.	256-766-4102
Follow-up:	Janey Cleveland	256-442-5774
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Judie Beggs	256-492-5888
Sponsors' Hour:	Buddy Berry	256-442-7200
Worship:	Andrea Marbut	256-458-3746
Photographer:	Barbara Harris	256-582-7661
Humble Servant:	Paul Myrick	256-557-6868

Name	City	Sponsor
John Godina	Albertville	Shirley Chupp
Greg Reaves	Albertville	Shane Johnson
Brad Biddle	Albertville	Tommy & Neeysa Biddle
Adrian Ethridge	Alexander City	Butch & Debra Fennell
Tommy Proctor	Altoona	Fruitheads RG - Lester Memorial (Joe Hastings)
Ken Jay	Arab	Lisa Reece & Grant Rodgers
Chris Pirtle	Athens	Clay Jackson
Jason Garrette	Birmingham	Danny Bass & Bill Rush
Royce Johnson	Crossville	Josh Brogdon
Donald Eady	Florence	First Light RG (Tom Wissert)
Ricky Hill	Florence	Joe & Jean Peeden
Billy Ogletree	Gadsden	Evelyn Muskett & Laura Durbin
Bill Kaufman	Gurley	Laura & George Bracey
Reggie Tolbert	Haleyville	Shannon Reed
Gene Ingram	Helena	Stephen Collins
John White	Hoover	Mike Miller
Paul Carboni	Hoover	Lisa Carboni
Bob Wilder	Hoover	Glenn Sheffield
Ken Newton	Huntsville	Scott Williams
Lance Duke	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Mo Russell	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Eric Vosahlik	Huntsville	Jeff Langhout & Jane Smith
Art Leslie	Huntsville	Judy Panucci & Renee Rowse
Josh Williams	Huntsville	Dale Clem
Dick Windsor	Huntsville	Glenn Stokes
Todd Walker	Jacksonville	Laurie Douthit & Justin Wayne
Chase Wright	Killen	Lauren Wright & Bill Jordan
Arthur Morris	Madison	Vern Spearman
David Brown	Moss Point	Ken Baines
Rob Moore	Northport	Matt Hammond
Butch Wallace	Oneonta	Joe Hastings
Jeff Hawkins	Owens Cross Rds.	Ken & Jackie Albrecht
Jimmy Foster	Rainbow City	Buddy Berry
Levi Thompson	Sand Rock	Jay Myrick
Tee Jay Wilson	Talladega	Paul Webb

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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.

The family of **Patricia Jennings (86)**

Sandra Sloan (271), for the loss of her husband, **Bob Sloan (293)** and **Stephanie Wright (294)**, for the loss of her father

The family of **Betty Brothers (6)**

Sherry Sublett (2), for the loss of her mother