

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

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October 2016

Community Humble Servants

Mike Shotts
Lay Director

Tony Jones
Spiritual Director

Ricky Hall
Asst. Lay Director

Chuck Worley
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

Kathy Hall
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Kay Seale
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

A time to, and a time not to

By MIKE SHOTTS

Lay Director
ECCLESIASTES 3: 1-8

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven

Over the last couple of weeks the old 60's song by the Byrds, Turn, Turn, Turn or "To Everything There Is a Season" has been going through my mind. I keep humming the tune in my head and often find myself singing, which is not something you would want to hear. The song was written by Pete Seeger in the late 1950's. The lyrics, except for the last title which is repeated throughout the song and the final two lines are adapted word-for-word from the King James Version of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, making this the #1 song with the oldest lyrics.

After leaving the last closing at Sumatanga, I connected the words with what some of the pilgrims had said. There was a lot of baggage left behind by several pilgrims, particularly at Dying Moments. Some of the song verses are:

"A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance"

"A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones"

"A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away"

"A time to rent, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak"

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 has meaning for all of us. There is a time for everything and at times we do need to realize this. A time to weep and a time to laugh come naturally to us, some things are harder such as a time to keep silence and a time to speak or a time to rent and a time to sew.

We don't necessarily have to come to a Saturday service at Emmaus to lose some of the baggage we carry around. We can determine when to have a time to get and time to lose; or a time to keep and a time to cast away by just asking Jesus.

We do need more pilgrims to attend Emmaus

(Please see Shotts Page 2.)

Ever thought about "-fy"?

By TONY JONES
Spiritual Director

Have you ever thought about what the suffix "fy" does to a word? Of course not! Who would dare take the time this day and age to think about etymology? Well, today we will try.

I was at a luncheon or a district meeting a while back, and my district superintendent, Robin Scott, said something that has stuck with me since that time. He said, "I am trying to not say anything unless it glorifies God or edifies man." I thought...wow, those are words to live by. Since we are on this journey together, let's look at these words more

closely.

The word *glorify* is defined as praise and worship of God. While the root word is *glory* and is defined as *public praise, honor, and fame*. Contrary to Ron White who claimed to be "thrown into public"... we are all in the public's eye, and how we live our life reflects the God we claim to love. I think Glory to God should be our hearts desire in everything we do. What about the rest of Robin's statement—*edify*?

The word *edify* is defined as *to instruct and improve; to build up!* Saying words that build up our brothers and sisters is not as easy as one might think. Try that while driving on

Hwy 75, or on 431. Try that while trying to prune an ineffective ministry in the church. Try that while two candidates wanting to lead our nation tear each other down. My word to you is... just try it. You might like the way you feel, or better yet, the way others feel about themselves.

I heard this story one time, and I'm not sure of its origin. There was a woman that owned a gas station in a small town. You know, one of those first-generation gas stations where they still pumped your gas, check you air-pressure, checked your oil, and clean your windshield. The

(Please see Jones Page 2.)

Remember the reason

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

There is a paragraph at the top of our Walk to Emmaus application. Have you read it lately? It explains the purpose of the walk; who the walk is meant for and what it is intended to achieve. This is what it says:

"The Walk to Emmaus is a 3-day retreat sponsored by the Upper Room, a division of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of the walk is to renew local church congregations by offering a "short course in Christianity" and provides a model for Christian accountability groups. It is intended for established Christians who want a refresher in the basic tenets of our faith and an opportunity for spiritual development through the sharing of God's grace." Do you think we sometimes forget what the Walk to Emmaus is meant to be? The walk is sponsored by the United Methodist Church, through the Upper Room, but is totally ecumenical for main line Christian churches. It is intended to strengthen local churches by reinforcing our faith and undergirding us in the grace that is given to us by God.

Here are some guidelines for prospective pilgrims:

1. Candidates should be active members of a mainline Christian church.
2. Candidates should be leaders or potential leaders of their congregation.
3. Candidates should not be "trouble makers." Emmaus will not change them. It gives them more tools for disruption.
4. Candidates should be physically able to participate. Emmaus is not for healing services or treatment of addictions or mental health.
5. Candidates should be people who seek spiritual enrichment.
6. Candidates should be willing to share the spirit of Emmaus in their home church.

We should consider this. Maybe everybody needs the Emmaus experience, but some people need something else first. The real truth is that Emmaus is not for everybody and it is not the only way people meet Christ or grow spiritually. Go back and read your notes from the Fourth Day talk for more about that. We want more applicants, but we also want applicants who fit the mission of the Emmaus Walk. Filling a walk

(Please see Phillips Page 6.)

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Shotts

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walks, but remember that we sponsor pilgrims when it is their time to go on a walk. An Emmaus pilgrim is not sponsored to be "fixed" or to make a Christian out of them. Emmaus is to provide leaders in our local Churches, therefore promoting growth within the Christian Community. We do dump a lot of baggage on an Emmaus walks, and for some pilgrims this is what they need, to break them free. Please consider why you would sponsor a pilgrim on an Emmaus Walk. Quality is often better than quantity.

Please continue to pray for the upcoming Emmaus walks and for the pilgrims, who attend, also remember there is a time to sponsor and a time not to sponsor. There is a time to pray, but I don't know if there is a time not to pray.

Jones

(Continued From Page 1.)

gas station owner was approached by another woman at church regarding her experience at the gas station earlier that week. The female patron shared that she had never been treated with such disrespect. She complained about everything from the moment she pulled up at the pumps to the time she left. She then advised the owner to give her employees a real chewing!

She saw the owner the next week at church, and smiling from ear-to-ear as she said, "You must have really gave your employees a good chewing. They couldn't help me enough...and they were so polite!" She continued by asking how did she do it? What did she say? "How did they take it? Did anyone get fired?" The owner just said, "Well, I told them that you were really bragging on their service, that they were great workers and perfect gentlemen. You loved your experience because of them!"

The moral of the story is simple...*you can catch more flies with honey.* However, there is more at stake by *glorifying* God and *edifying* man.

The suffix "fy" is an added gift. The suffix "fy" is defined as to cause or become. When we *glorify* God something happens...we are transformed. We cause transformation of others and ourselves. When we *edify* others we are transformed...we cause transformation of others and ourselves. We know how powerful our words are. I am reminded of Proverbs 12:18, *The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.* What we say, and how we say it matters. We can choose to tear down or build up, but be careful...the person you are tearing down or building up might be yourself. God is good and so are you!

DeColores,
-Tony

Know of potential
Pilgrims?
Pray for them and you
consider becoming
a sponsor!

Fly on the wall sees much over time

It was about this time of year, twenty years ago, when I was serving on my first term on the Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors, that the previous community coordinator (Pat Brasher) had to resign and we were looking for a new coordinator. That was when I first met Carolyn Phillips and we hired her as our new community coordinator. Carolyn has done an excellent job over the years and has seen many happenings and changes within the community.

As I was about to swat a fly the other day, the fly beckoned unto me, that he was an Emmaus Fly and that I should not strike him. He told me that he was a Nascar Fan and hung around the Talladega area a lot, particularly at the home of Carolyn Phillips. Below is his story. Mike Shotts

"It was Labor Day Weekend in 1996, a hot, partly cloudy day like so many summer days in Alabama. Carolyn Phillips, Ted Hagler - the Emmaus Treasurer, and the coordinator's servant, pulled up to Pat and Bill Brasher's home in Vestavia with two pickup trucks and a set of hand trucks. The Alabama Emmaus Coordinator's job was moving to Eastaboga and I would spend the next twenty years as a fly on the wall in

the Emmaus Office.

We loaded up file cabinets, a computer, printer, fax machine, copier and a whole bunch of file boxes and convoyed sixty miles east. I cleaned out an 8 X 20 utility room which the new Emmaus Office shared with a washer and dryer for the next four years. Carolyn quickly set up shop, getting new lines installed for the phone and fax machine, renting a P.O. box, unpacking and settling in to the job. The first challenge was rebuilding the Emmaus Pilgrim Database. Most of it had been lost or scrambled in the transition. In those days, we were doing 12 walks per year with a 49 pilgrim average. And there was a waiting list with hundreds of applications. The database had to be reconfigured and all of it had to be re-entered. The fly watched over a lot of late nights until it was all caught up and functional again.

In the year 2000, Carolyn got the urge to move to the big city, so we relocated to Talladega. The Emmaus Office was upgraded to a spare bedroom. A few years later, our basement was remodeled and Carolyn moved her office into a 12 X 30 office set up just for the Emmaus Office, with 2 desks, a 6 X12 storage room, a wall

mounted flat screen tuned to Fox News and a bird feeding station right outside her window. The hand cross from walk 131, which she served as lay director, is framed and mounted on the wall behind her desk and there are a couple of De Colores Roosters.

The first walk under Carolyn's tenure was #140. In the past 20 years, Carolyn has served the community faithfully, facilitated 318 walks, worked with and advised 20 different boards, 21 Community Lay Directors, 20 Community Spiritual Directors and invited over 15,000 pilgrims to attend the Walk to Emmaus. In the process, she has worn out 4 computers, 2 printers and 3 fax machines.

The fly on the wall has seen it all. Some walks were easy. Some walks were difficult to say the least. All walks have been a labor of love. When Carolyn took the job, there were 12 walks per year with a maximum (and expected) 49 pilgrims per walk. That number went as high as 18 walks per year with the standard 49 pilgrims expected for each one. Pilgrims and sponsors have been cooperative and friendly for the most part. Of course, there have been a few who were somewhat demanding and/or hard to please. There have been pilgrims who cancel at the last minute,

(Please see Fly Page 6.)

UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPIRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
461	Nov 3-6	Patrice Booth	Ralph Barrow	C/EA	Bill Prestridge/ Butch Fennell
462	Feb 2-5	Joan Cleveland	Dallas Culver	F/H/H	Freda Crumpton
463	Mar 2-5	Jim Sims	Barry Hallman	C/O	Jane Sims
464	Mar 23-26	Georgia McCaig	Sammy Hayes	A/D/M/S	Leasha Laster
465	Apr 20-23	Mark Scoggin	TBA	T/WA	Butch Burgess
466	May 18-21	Teresa Holderfield	TBA	G/M/CH-DK	Jacque Clay

***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 461
November 3-6, 2016**

Lay Director	Patrice Booth (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Angel Rait (Priority) Louise Tapley (Fourth Day) Debra Fennell Christine Neese Cathy Parker Chrystal Whitehead
Spiritual Director	Ralph Barrow (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	John Hill (Prevenient Grace) Josh Simmons (Justifying Grace) Amy Parsons Vaughn (Sanctifying Grace) Rick Talley (Obstacles)
Music	Vic Hamilton
Asst. Table Leaders	Kathy Talley (Priesthood) Dianne Wingfield (Study) Kim Warren (Discipleship) Susan Vickers (Changing Our World) Brenda Causey (Christian Action) Stephanie Kirby (Body of Christ) Denise Burford (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Pamela Baird Mary Larson Linda Stanfield Dell Stone Stephanie Terrell Katrina Upchurch
Board Rep.	Bill Prestridge, Butch Fennell

Committees

Agape:	Steve Lyles	256-749-7107
Meal Service:	Chuck Belitz	256-362-6412
Refreshments:	Bill Goodwin	256-212-2090
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Dian Long	256-839-6827
Housing:	Kathy Mitchell	256-794-5196
Candlelight:	Mr. G Scroggins	706-766-4102
Clean-up:	Wallace Wesson	256-245-7604
Closing:	Duane Skarecky	256-234-3429
Entertainment:	Carol Scroggins	706-766-4102
Follow-up:	Lisa Fornwalt	256-207-0729
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Brenda Kent	256-362-3753
Sponsors' Hour:	Ted Anderson	256-591-5666
Worship:	Cameron Dodwell	256-329-3994
Photographer:	Deb Hendrick	256-861-2000
Humble Servant:	Steve Crowe	256-234-3152

Name	City	Sponsor
Lisa Pierce	Albertville	Patsy Johnson
Rachel Davis	Alexander City	Adrian Ethridge and Mike & Connie Jackson
Sharon Lancaster	Glencoe	Elaine Mayes
Dietrich Schaefer	Guntersville	Jim & Barbara Harris
Shellie Studdard	Haleyville	Della Ann Howell
Pat Schneider	Hoover	Susan Sheffield
Liz Thornton	Huntsville	Joy Williams
Annette Harris	Jackson's Gap	Donnie Patterson
Deb McDaniel	Livingston	Leigh Helveston
Jackie Yarbrough	Oneonta	V J Brown
Vicki Alexander	Somerville	Jennifer Montgomery & Jo Touchton

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 462
February 2-5, 2017**

Lay Director	Joan Cleveland (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Gloria McKee(Priority) Jackie Mize (Fourth Day) Kathy Hall Teresa Seal Kim Perdue Jennifer Swinney
Spiritual Director	Dallas Culver (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Jeff Fleming (Prevenient Grace) Tim Alexander (Justifying Grace) Paula Calhoun (Sanctifying Grace) Elliott Gordon (Obstacles)
Music	Chris Burcham
Asst. Table Leaders	Carla Roberts (Priesthood) Pam Putman (Study) Karla Huffman (Discipleship) Willodean Gregg (Changing Our World) Jolene Stockton (Christian Action) Branda Massey (Body of Christ) Terri Alexander (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Peggy Vick Ponda Gordon Konnie Thrasher Ginger Gaddis Carlie Hellums Dana Fleming Patricia Farr
Board Rep.	Freda Crumpton

Committees

Agape:	Kevin Posey	205-412-2602
Meal Service:	Anne Vinson	256-356-4837
Refreshments:	Nancy Bowling	256-577-0863
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Mary Nell Saunders	205-522-4828
Housing:	Pat Hardin	256-332-3449
Candlelight:	Robert Wood	205-486-4529
Clean-up:	Alan Wilson	256-324-7664
Closing:	Paul Huffman	256-668-0451
Entertainment:	George Childree	205-412-5136
Follow-up:	Dolores Sparks	256-668-2141
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	George Farris	205-486-2003
Sponsors' Hour:	Jan Page	256-356-9946
Worship:	Lisa Davis	256-810-0543
Photographer:	Denise Wilson	256-627-1561
Humble Servant:	Johnny Hardin	256-332-3449

Name	City	Sponsor
Linda Williams	Alexander City	Cathy & Mike Parker
Marilyn Ingram	Birmingham	Lisa Donnell
Tammy Loy	Gurley	Leigh Helveston
Jackie Langhout	Huntsville	Jeff Langhout & Jane Smith
Kathleen Messer	Montrose	George & Dolores Childree
Faith Lenhart	Vestavia Hills	Carolyn Dobson

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Fly

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pilgrims who never accept an invitation and some who bounce on and off, an on again. There have pilgrims from out-of-state and even from overseas. There have been pilgrims with very special needs. She has dealt with midweek walks and one double walk, with a men's walk and a women's walk taking place on the same weekend.

Armed with prayer and the guidance of the board in the form of a target number of pilgrims for each walk and rules such as only 7 pilgrims from one town on any walk, and the divine knowledge that every pilgrim will attend the walk they are meant to go on, Carolyn has sorted it all out for 20 years and counting.

The fly has seen that this job has a lot of ups and downs. Every pilgrim brings heartache, joy, depression, exaltation and even tragedy and many of them share these emotions with the coordinator. The walk is not designed or intended for Christian conversion, but it happens. The walk does not include healing services, but healing happens. The coordinator shares these blessings after the fact when lay directors report to the board.

During the past twenty years, the fly on the wall has seen and heard it all. Good times and hard times. Too many pilgrims and too few pilgrims. Some people have been difficult to work with. Many have been a source of great joy.

There have been opportunities to interact with many deeply spiritual men and women. Carolyn has made countless friends all across Alabama and has been deeply blessed by serving the Emmaus Community.

And the fly has been blessed just by being close."

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 **Ricky Scott (171)**

Phillips

(Continued From Page 2.)

by sponsoring people whose time to attend is not now, will only harm the effectiveness of the whole walk. As you already know, people will attend the walk they are meant to go on.

But only if we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in our sponsorship.

De Colores!

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