

Alabama Emmaus Community News

# The Grapevine

Vol. 14 No. 6

December 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

## Don't anticipate...

By **MIKE SHOTTS**  
Lay Director

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:8-9

As I write this article, it is a couple of days prior to Thanksgiving. The past couple of months have been very busy, and I have been reviewing several things that must be accomplished before the end of the year. We always hear "don't anticipate" during Emmaus walks; however, I don't always want to "go with the flow" and continue to anticipate what is coming up.

Paul was given a "thorn in the flesh" to prevent him from becoming exalted above measure, which he pleaded with the Lord three times to remove. The Lord told Paul that "My Grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." It is easy to say, but we all worry about different things at various times. Just remember during the upcoming holiday season that His grace is sufficient for all of us. Everything will be OK, because His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

This past year of serving as your Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director has been a blessing to me. I have met many new friends, which I would not have met, if not for Emmaus. The 2016 Board, while not always in complete agreement, was a unified board and we made several changes that will give the Alabama Emmaus Community a different look in 2017 and beyond. One of the major changes is that a clergy member does not have to be an Elder in the United Methodist Church to be a spiritual director of an Alabama Emmaus walk. If a clergy member has never served as a spiritual director (previous walk spiritual directors are grandfathered in) and meet the requirements of being a clergy in their domination and have worked two previous walk as an ASD, then they may qualify to serve as a walk spiritual director. The only other requirements are that they must fill out a clergy application (which can be printed from the Alabama Emmaus Web site) and attend a clergy training event. This brings me to the point I wish

(Please see Shotts Page 2.)

## Hope for tomorrow

By **TONY JONES**  
Spiritual Director

Can you remember the excitement that you experienced as a kindergartener; as a second grader; or even as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader? Somewhere between pre-pimples and a mortgage we lose a little excitement. I think part of the excitement that children possess is that they have their entire life in front of them even if they don't fully understand what that means. At their age the "sky is the limit" and they are given the permission to dream, and because of their sky-filled dreams it's okay to have hope for a better tomorrow.

What if your tomorrow

could be better than your yesterday? That is what hope is about...a hope in the future.

Rev. Tammy Jackson and I are in the process of merging two congregations in the Albertville area. We have been praying, studying, and preparing for a new congregation called Hope UMC. Here is the beauty of our churches' union...no one is making us do it. We are doing it so that we can make our tomorrow better than our yesterday. That ideology is not common in the church. We adult disciples often live in the past. "That's not the way we use to do it!" "We've never done it that way!" "We've never put a bouncy thing in the sanctuary for VBS!" I believe

when our past overtakes our future we lose hope, and hope is something we all need.

This is my first year to serve on the Emmaus board. I'll admit I was hesitant, but a lot has changed in the past 6 months. My thoughts always wandered to: *who can commit to that many meetings, or that is too much work that will take away from the church I serve?* What I've experienced is more than I could have imagined. Your Emmaus board is full of people with hope. They are trying to steer an Emmaus community that is declining so that more churches can have equipped

(Please see Jones Page 2.)

## Pray for peace everywhere

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS  
Community Coordinator

In a time when we need peace in our world, country, state and home I would like to share a favorite story taken from Tony Campolo's book *The Kingdom of God Is A Party*. I have used it before but it means enough for me to share it again.

*During the Civil War, the army of the Union and the army of the Confederacy were locked in a vicious battle to the death just outside the city of Richmond. As night fell after the first day of the battle, cheers were heard from the Confederate lines. When General Grant asked what was going on behind the enemy's line, he was told that the wife of General George Pickett had given birth to a baby boy, and that his troops were celebrating.*

*Upon receiving the news, General Grant ordered bonfires to be lit and a toast to be given. Cheers and hoorahs rang out all night long. For a few hours, the shooting stopped and warring soldiers were drawn together for a birthday party. The birth of Pickett's son only temporarily stopped a war. But it stands as evidence of what a good birthday party can do.*

*The news is that another son was born, and there were some who stopped what they were doing and enjoyed a little bit of peace for just a little while. There was singing in the sky – at least some shepherds said there was. And some strange visitors came looking for a baby whom they nicknamed the Prince of Peace. Everyone has not gotten the message, so not everyone knows about the baby. But the baby started a movement and we know that someday everyone will come to His party and call Him the Lord of the feast.*

*There's a great day coming when the world will change. The lion will lie down with the lamb. Swords will be beaten into plowshares. And people will forget about war. What started as a birthday party will end with a wedding feast. We will call it the "Kingdom of God." We must pray for it, and we must work for it.*

Pray for peace, everywhere!  
Carolyn Phillips,  
Talladega 1<sup>st</sup> UMC,  
Walk #63, Table of Ruth

### *The Grapevine*

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Web: [www.AlaEmmaus.org](http://www.AlaEmmaus.org)  
email: [Office@AlaEmmaus.org](mailto:Office@AlaEmmaus.org)

Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 1016 Sedgefield Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35150, or emailed to [DHall92727@aol.com](mailto:DHall92727@aol.com).

## Shotts

(Continued From Page 1.)

to make. We will have a training event for clergy on Friday, January 27, 2017, at Camp Sumatanga. This training will be conducted by Upper Room personnel from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with lunch provided by the Alabama Emmaus Community. If you are a member of the clergy and wish to someday serve as a spiritual director of an Emmaus walk, please plan on attending this training event. I am not sure when we will have another training session, so this one is critical for clergy of any domination, who have never served as a spiritual director. Please pass the word about this training and encourage clergy to participate.

Again, it has been pleasure to work with each of you in 2016, and I look forward to seeing you again in 2017. Your 2017 Community Lay Director will be Ricky Hall from Russellville. Ricky has a much better personality than I do. Please remember that we have a lot to look forward to and please don't anticipate, because his Grace is sufficient for all. May you be blessed in 2017, and have a Merry Christmas. --Mike

## Jones

(Continued From Page 1.)

disciples. It's a fact that people are less involved today than yesterday in their churches, families, and even The Walk to Emmaus. Why? I think we allow ourselves to become too consumed with the world. It is with that understanding that Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2, *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* I'll admit it's hard to be in the world and not of the world. Look at the world today...do you want to reflect a worldly image, or wouldn't you want to be a light on hill?

Through my time on the Emmaus board I was inspired to hear of their deep appreciation for clergy participation. However, we need more clergy. Time and again I heard how thankful that the laity are to have clergy willing to work along side laity and the Holy Spirit to help make someone's Emmaus experience an investment in their tomorrow. Did I say we need more clergy participation? It has always been my thought that the strength of Emmaus was the laity working alongside the Holy Spirit. As clergy, I am inspired and encouraged for tomorrow because of their hard work.

One of the strengths of the laity leadership in Emmaus is the training that takes place when someone partners with the Holy Spirit to lead a walk. They are instructed on everything from team selection to closing. New to Emmaus is a similar training for clergy. In fact, if you have never been a Spiritual Director before this training is now required to be the SD in the future. Before you stop reading, I join you in questioning if I can add one more meeting to my schedule, but isn't our tomorrow's worth the investment? A clergy training event will remind us that each walk is ecumenical, and that God's *Prevenient, Justifying, and Sanctifying* grace comes with *Obstacles*. The Emmaus clergy training will also remind us that Holy Communion is open to all. Today with our streets full of protestors and while others seek safety behind locked doors we could all use the reminder of a better tomorrow. I invite all clergy to join me on Friday, January 27 at Camp Sumatanga for clergy training, and I'll take care of your lunch. Let us live up to the adoration that our Emmaus board has been so freely to give us, and let us join our laity in offering hope for a better tomorrow. Isn't that what the season of Advent is about?

DeColores, Tony Jones

--New Requirement--New Requirement--New Requirement--New Requirement--New Requirement--

# *Emmaus Clergy Training*

January 27, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Camp Sumatanga

If you have never served as a walk spiritual director, you need to attend this training session. Download Application from [www.alaemmaus.org](http://www.alaemmaus.org) & forward to Carolyn Phillips at Alabama Emmaus Office.

Please notify Carolyn Phillips if you plan to attend. This event is open to all denominations.

**Note:** New Spiritual Directors and new ASD's must have application on file. New SD's must attend training session.

Call Alabama Emmaus office for questions.

## **UPCOMING WALKS**

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
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	John Schuessler
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 463  
March 2-5, 2017**

Lay Director	Jim Sims (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Rickey Nails (Priority) Bob Manney(Fourth Day) Lane Berry
Spiritual Director	Barry Hallman (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	(Prevenient Grace) (Justifying Grace) (Sanctifying Grace) (Obstacles)
Music	Bill Treutel
Asst. Table Leaders	Doyle Jones (Priesthood) Bill Densen (Study) TBA (Discipleship) TBA (Changing Our World) Bill Barnett (Christian Action) Neal Brooks (Body of Christ) TBA (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Ed McGraw Max Moody Bob Coburn David Wilson
Board Rep.	Jane Sims Rita Speegle

**Committees**

Agape:	Judy Bonds	256-734-8038
Meal Service:	Sara Manney	205-647-2143
Refreshments:	TBA	
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	TBA	
Housing:	Jeanne Nelson	205-625-6706
Candlelight:	TBA	
Clean-up:	TBA	
Closing:	TBA	
Entertainment:	TBA	
Follow-up:	TBA	
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	TBA	
Sponsors' Hour:	TBA	
Worship:	TBA	
Photographer:	TBA	
Humble Servant:	Emilie Sims	

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Brad Biddle	Albertville	Tommy & Neeysa Biddle
Matthew Thompson	Arab	Chris & Brooke Hemphill
Kevin Green	Ashville	Brad Clem
Shawn Morris	Birmingham	Bobby Hosey
Taylor Mills	Centre	George Scroggin
Randy Erwin	Centre	Adet Stephens
Royce Johnson	Crossville	Josh Brogdon
Donald Webb	Guin	Jerry Gann & Mike Shotts
David Ozuna	Haleyville	David McNutt & Carlin Burrow
Reggie Tolbert	Haleyville	Shannon Reed
Werdell Kirk	Hamilton	Melinda Knight
Karl Byrd	Hamilton	Gerald Gann
Brian Henley	Helena J	ack Bailey
Greg Little	Hoover	Tommy Cawthon
John White	Hoover	Mike Miller
Bill Hornsby	Hueytown	Cindy Burrage
Lance Duke	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Josh Williams	Huntsville	Dale Clem
Art Leslie	Huntsville	Judy Panucci & Renee Rowse
Mo Russell	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Wil Ransom	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Thomas McDaniel	Livingston	Leigh Helveston
Jim McReynolds	Madison	Ken Bauer
Arthur Morris	Madison	Vern Spearman
Russell Holbrook	Meridianville	Carlotta Maneice
Stephen Benefield	Moulton	Ken & Kay Seale
Bradley Mote	Moulton	Lile Bickley
Tim Taylor	Moulton	Moulton RG (Tim Littrell)
Bob Thomas	Moundville	Julie Thomas
Rob Moore	Northport	Matt Hammond
Tommy Jordan	Odenville	Terry Walker
Jack Thomason	Oneonta	Pam Gilliland
Brad Ingram	Oneonta	Alan Cheney
Fred Buckelew	Oneonta	Alan Cheney
Mike Brooks	Sheffield	Allison Brooks/Aromas RG
Tee Jay Wilson	Talladega	Paul Webb
Blake Ferguson	Trinity	Moulton RG (John Kimbrough)
Willard Ford	Wedowee	Stephanie Kirby

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 464  
March 23-26, 2017**

Lay Director	Georgia McCaig (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Revonda Twesme (Priority) Bobbi Shelton (Fourth Day) Kaye Mason Amanda Hargrove Deborah Whitten Megan Smith-Keenum
Spiritual Director	Sammy Hays (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Belinda Rives (Prevenient Grace) Gary Formby (Justifying Grace) Kelly Klem (Sanctifying Grace) Nancy Cole (Obstacles)
Music	Brant Rutledge
Asst. Table Leaders	TBA (Priesthood) Allison Brooks (Study) Cathy Brett (Discipleship) Julie G Campbell (Changing Our World) Callie Waldrep (Christian Action) Tina Martin (Body of Christ) Joanna Edwards (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Melissa Parks Cara Fretwell Anne Carter Linda Watson Kris Murphy Jean Peeden Rosemary Lewey
Board Rep.	John Schuessler

Name	City	Sponsor
Carol Ann Russell	Huntsville	Celia Darden
Barbara McReynolds	Madison	Jane Bauer
Laura Beth Bailey	Muscle Shoals	Leah Torisky and Janet & Donnie Roberts

**Committees**

Agape:	Kaye Seale	256-974-3109
Meal Service:	Ann Lyndon	256-810-7013
Refreshments:	Barbara Chenault	256-476-0116
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Sandra Burfield	256-577-0862
Housing:	Jack McDaniel	256-655-6283
Candlelight:	Mark Custer	256-436-0311
Clean-up:	Don Kirk	256-762-5411
Closing:	Mitch Dobbins	256-366-6323
Entertainment:	Jamie Cosby	256-710-8296
Follow-up:	Joe Peeden	256-627-1175
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Jan Hargrove	256-777-4095
Sponsors' Hour:	Lynda Bottcher	256-412-0338
Worship	Ann Glover	256-566-6560
Photographer:	Pam Clepper Stumpe	404-801-8226
Humble Servant:	Billy Hargrove	256-777-4706

## *The Grapevine*

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

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#### *Upper Room* series

## Resources available

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

The Alabama Emmaus Community has access to a lot of great books to continue your journey after your Walk. Listed below are some of the books offered to the Community on Saturday night prior to Candlelight.

- Sponsorship
- Coming Down from the Mountain
- Fruit of the Spirit
- What is Chrysalis?
- One in the Spirit
- Spiritual Growth through Team Experience
- The Role of Agape
- Group Reunion
- The Early History
- Day Four

These books are produced by The Upper Room. They are \$6.00 each and are located in the foyer in Hutto. The Board Representatives for the walk occurring will be at the Registration Table to assist you with your purchase.

Worship booklets are also available for \$2 each and DeCOLORES bumper stickers are available for \$1. Worship booklets, Day Four books and DeCOLORES bumper stickers are available on Sunday night prior to Closing.

DeColores!  
Kathy Hall, Walk 379 Literature/Permanent Committee

### *Praying for You*

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

**Roberta Wyckoff (81)**, for the loss of her brother, Charles B. Snead.

**Judi Vick (296)**, for the loss of her brother, Rusty Hughes.

**Mike Samuels (KY-59)**, for the loss of his mother, Anita Samuels.

**Butch Fennell (285)** and **Brenda Poe (390)**, for the loss of their sister, Doris Baird.

**Peggy (NAS)** and **George Scott (NAS)**, for the loss of their daughter **Michelle (Missy) Scott Johnson (17)**, and **Michael (3)** and **George IV (7:E)** for the loss of their sister.

**Annie Faye Sullins (67)** for the loss of her husband **Everette (62)**.

The Family of **Joel Brown (327)**