

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Community News

Vol. 15 No. 1

February 2017

Community Humble Servants

Ricky Hall
Lay Director

Tony Jones
Spiritual Director

Bill Beatty
Asst. Lay Director

Chuck Worley
Asst. Spiritual Director

Carolyn Phillips
Community Coordinator

Ted Hagler
Treasurer

Billy Beatty
Chad Botcher
Butch Burgess
Jacque Clay
Ruth Ann Clay
Denise Cone
Freda Crumpton
Butch Fennell
Ann Seay Frazier
Pattie Gann
Linda Holt
Brenda Kent
John Schuessler
Mike Shotts
Rita Speegle
Jane Sims
Katie Woodward
Board Representatives

Kathy Hall
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Kay Seale
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

Don't grow weary

By **RICKY HALL**
Lay Director

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve alongside the Alabama Emmaus Community Board members as your Community Lay Director for 2017. Just getting to be any part of our Alabama Emmaus Community is a blessing.

As many of you do, I remember all the blessings from my original walk. Mine was walk #360, led by The Holy Spirit and Mr. Bill Smith from the Huntsville/Madison Cluster.

I can recall how Bill assembled the perfect team for that walk and how my table leader, Tim Cotton, kept everyone involved at our table. (Not an easy job with six other pilgrims there)

and how Spike McCroy kept everything lively with his infectious smile and lively attitude. They truly allowed the Holy Spirit to flow through them.

Although I must admit, my first official act as your Community Lay Director was to cancel the January overnight board meeting due to inclement weather. That was a tough call to make, but I believe it was in everyone's best interest as far as safety.

Serving on the Board of Directors for the past two years has brought many special people into my life, who I will always consider to be my "new best friends," and I look forward to getting to know many, many more. A *Precious* friend re-

minded me not long ago that Emmaus is not a destination, but a continued journey, and she is so right!

The last several years the Board has pushed and encouraged sponsorship and that will not change this year.

We will have 10 walks in 2017, six women and four men's walks. I can think of nothing better than for us all to get to work and fill the conference room full of pilgrims so they can have the same Emmaus experience that we all had and continue to have.

The pilgrims are out there, we just need to be bold enough to invite them.

For every pilgrim who attends a walk, that will open up
(Please see Hall Page 2.)

The little things matter

By **TONY JONES**
Spiritual Director

Stories and characters in the Bible can make us stop and wonder. Take "Hur" for example. You are probably in great company if you are reading this and asking, "Who is Hur?" In the book of Exodus, the Amalekites attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses told Joshua to pick men for the ensuing battle while he stand on the hill with God's staff in his hands (Exodus 17:8-9).

The battle waged on, and what was clear was when Moses held his hands high the Israelites would be winning. At any time Moses's arms would drop, the Amalekites would begin to win. They must have fought for a long time; scripture tells us that because of help, Moses hands remained steady until sunset (v. 12). That help was Aaron and a man named Hur.

There is not a lot mentioned about Hur in the Bible, but look at the huge role he played in

Israel's history. Hur made me stop and think about the little things we do and how much they matter in a big way.

January 27 I attended a clergy training event in part because of my role as the SD for the Alabama Emmaus Community. There were a faithful 30+ people who participated in the training. One those 30+ clergy was a pastor by the name of Gary Formby.

The back-story...my wife and I moved to Oneonta as newlyweds in 1992. We had no children, no money, no church family. We visited churches in Oneonta and nothing seemed to fit. Then we were invited by a family friend, Hal Buckelew, to visit Lester Memorial. When we arrived, Hal took us around and personally introduced us to soon to be life-long friends.

After Sunday School, Shannon and I were waiting for Hal outside the Sanctuary and met a young girl just home from college named Jenni-

(Please see Jones Page 2.)

Many possibilities available for Walks

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

We are beginning 2017 with many opportunities for pilgrims to attend walks. If you have been considering sponsoring someone, please pray about it and then proceed as you feel led. Here is a "Top Ten" list to guide you through your journey as a sponsor.

1. Pray before you even invite your pilgrim and become a servant. You should be willing to accept the responsibility of serving your pilgrim and your pilgrim's family.
 2. Be a part of the 72-Hour prayer vigil in your cluster. Pray for your pilgrim during their walk.
 3. Be sure that your pilgrim is spiritually, mentally and physically able to attend the walk and willing and ready to go on the walk. They should know what to expect and what to bring. In their letter of invitation they are told to bring their own toilet articles, towels, washcloths, and bedding (sheets and blankets for a twin bed, or sleeping bag, and pillow). Be sure they bring these things. If they are taking medications, they should bring them.
 4. Bring your pilgrim to Camp in time to register, unpack and be at Opening by 7:00.
 5. Bring your pilgrim's letters clearly marked with their first and last name to Camp on Thursday night. Do not wait to the last minute to gather these letters.
 6. Participate in Sponsor's Hour after all the pilgrims go downstairs. Dedicating your pilgrim's Emmaus Cross is an important part of a sponsor's responsibility.
 7. See to the needs of your pilgrim's family.
 8. Consider sending Agape from you or your reunion group.
 9. Attend Candlelight and Closing. On Sunday afternoon, be sure everything that belongs to your pilgrim is removed from the conference room and east wing.
 10. Take your pilgrim to follow up and help him or her become active in a reunion group.
- Your involvement in making their walk the "once in a lifetime experience" is key to making it possible. This is a great responsibility! But you are not alone! If you have any other questions please let me know. Friends who have al-

(Please see Phillips next column.)

The Grapevine

Alabama Emmaus Office, P.O. Box 1216
Talladega, AL 35161
256.315.2346 or 256.315.2347 Fax
Web: www.AlaEmmaus.org
email: Office@AlaEmmaus.org

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

Hall

(Continued From Page 1.)

another whole new circle of pilgrim candidates. They're out there, we just need to find them and encourage them to come on.

Last year we had a total of 315 pilgrims on 11 walks. This year we are down to 10 walks, but I see no reason why we can't raise these numbers.

Cluster Leadership Training was held at Camp Sumantanga on January 28 and we had a very good turnout.

We have a very enthusiastic group of Cluster Leaders for 2017, and we should lift them all up in our prayers as they have a tremendous responsibility.

Jeremiah 12:5 tells us "If you have run with the footmen and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with the horses?" These Cluster Leaders are truly running with the horses! They shared several great ideas and they are ready to go.

In closing, I would like to thank our Mighty God for allowing me to be a part of the Alabama Emmaus Community and all of you for allowing me to be of service to you.

Decolores! Your Servant in Christ, Ricky D. Hall
Alabama Emmaus Walk #360

Jones

(Continued From Page 1.)

fer Gordon, later to be Dr. Gordon. I'll never forget the impression I received when she asked if we were visitors then invited us to sit with her during worship.

Once inside, Gary Formby was preaching only his second sermon at his newly appointed Lester Memorial. I knew nothing about itinerancy, but he acted as if he had been there for years. I immediately thought *how can I be a part of this welcoming family. This is where I want my children to be taught about grace.*

So, a young couple became United Methodist, and our faith grew as large and fast as our family. Many, many great memories were birthed over the next several years, which remind me that unseen heroes matter!

Had Hal not enthusiastically invited us to church we might never have visited Lester Memorial; we grew up Baptist. Without Jennifer, my impression of the congregation might have been different. Without Gary my opinion of the Untied Methodist church could have been different.

The little things in our life matter. So, during the clergy training, I sat there in that room and wondered if Gary knew what his contribution meant to my being there as SD and here writing to you?

Unseen heroes matter! I read recently... "those supporters and those who encourage leaders play a huge part and an often overlooked role. Leaders may be the ones mentioned in the history books or lauded on social media, **but the quiet, faithful witness of those who serve in other ways is not overlooked by the Lord.**"

Thanks be to God for Hur, Hal, Jennifer, Gary, and you!
DeColores!
-Tony

Phillips

(Continued From Left Column.)

ready sponsored pilgrims are also a good resource for advice. And your local cluster leaders can support you as well. At candlelight, in the lobby, a very good booklet on sponsorship is available, too.

Serve in Christ, Carolyn Phillips Talladega 1st UMC
Walk 63, Table of Ruth

Friends of Latvia to meet March 20

Excitement is building in Latvia and in Alabama about the upcoming Friends of Latvia annual meeting for 2017. When Patrick Friday was first assigned as a missionary to Latvia, he made the statement "In order to bring Christianity back to this area, we must start with the youth and children." That began an adventure to create a camp for youth, children and adults.

The intent was to be able leave the world behind and focus on learning about Christ, and to strengthen attendees to go out into their world with strength to live and witness for God. This camp was modeled in some ways after Camp Sumatanga, which is often referred to as "Holy Ground." It is a place where many have been called to Ministry and continue to find that peace and renewal needed to strengthen them.

This year the annual Friends of Latvia meeting will actually be held at Camp Sumatanga March 20 - 21. And there will be another exciting opportunity to help further the Gospel in Latvia. The Latvian pastors will be joining this meeting.

To add to the excitement, the women pastors will be staying after the meeting to

participate in and experience an Emmaus Walk March 23-26. This is one of the steps needed to be able to bring the Emmaus Walk to Latvia. In working with the International Emmaus leadership, one of the things required to create an Emmaus Community in Latvia was to assemble enough people who have been through the Walk to create the necessary teams. After this weekend, we will be taking groups over to Latvia to assist these pastors and others in building the teams and bringing the Emmaus Walk to their people.

If you are interested, there are several ways you can help with this event. First, we need your prayers. And you can ask your reunion groups and others to write a letter of encouragement and love to each of the pastors who will be attending the Walk. Any letters will need to be in hand prior to the weekend. These can be sent with anyone attending the Friends of Latvia meeting, or you may mail them to Wannell Scott at: 415 N. Seminary St, Florence, AL 35630. If mailing to Wannell, please seal in an envelope with the pastor's name on it, and place in another envelope for mailing. The following are the women and pastors regis-

tered for the Emmaus Walk: Kristine Rozefelde, Zinta Dzintara, Ilzite Ozola, Daina Azmberga, Astra Dannenfelte and Gunta Sologuba .

Last, but not least, if you feel you can help with the expenses of bringing the pastors to the U.S. and to help with the expenses associated with the Emmaus Walk, it would certainly be appreciated. Any way you can help will be appreciated.

Wannell Scott, Minister of Discipleship
FUMC Florence

Clergy receive Upper Room training

By Mike Shotts

On January 27, the Alabama Emmaus Community sponsored our first training session for Clergy Spiritual Directors at Camp Sumatanga. The training was conducted by Dr. Kay Gray from the Upper Room. Due to recent changes in the rules governing who can be a walk Spiritual Director, this training was offered to all known clergy who have served on an Alabama Emmaus Walk.

UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
463	Mar 2-5	Jim Sims	Barry Hallman	C/O	Jane Sims, Rita Speegle
464	Mar 23-26	Georgia McCaig	Sammy Hayes	A/D/M/S	John Schuessler, Chad Bottcher
465	Apr 20-23	Mark Scoggin	John Kearns	T/WA	Butch Burgess, Katie Woodward
466	May 18-21	Teresa Holderfield	Melisa Saccucci	G/M/CH-DK	Jacque Clay, Ann Seay Frazier
467	Aug 3-6	Ken Albrecht	TBA	H/M	Bill Beatty Linda Holt
468	Sep 7-10	Debbie Alexander	Bill Brunson	BE/BS/SS	Ruth Ann Clay Denise Cone

*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 465
April 20-23, 2017**

Lay Director	Mark Scogin (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Ryan Rickert (Priority) Jay McCollum (Fourth Day) Paul Hass Bobby Jones Mike Whitten Matt Hammond
Spiritual Director	John Kearns (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Stephen Strange (Prevenient Grace) Paul Watson (Justifying Grace) Randy Raper (Sanctifying Grace) Alan Beasley (Obstacles)
Music	Ronnie Brasher
Asst. Table Leaders	Don Odum (Priesthood) Mark Wheat (Study) Doug Lewis (Discipleship) Daniel Caruthers (Changing Our World) Charles Stewart (Christian Action) Freddie Allen (Body of Christ) Bruce Higginbotham (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Joel McLaughlin Elbert Patterson Edgar Pruitt Craig Shelby Buddy Irving Danny Lemley Austin Haskew
Board Rep.	Butch Burgess, Katie Woodward

Committees

Agape:	Jaime Rickert	662-425-9344
Meal Service:	Norma Lemley	205-344-1012
Refreshments:	Jacque Allred	205-275-2534
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Polly Bailey	205-792-9315
Housing:	Jill Hannah	205-657-9058
Candlelight:	Renee Rimer	205-333-8907
Clean-up:	Bob Hoffman	205-752-6006
Closing:	Freddie Hammond	205-393-6763
Entertainment:	Donald Jones	205-412-3396
Follow-up:	Maggie Raburn	205-339-4107
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Danielle Eppes	205-499-0717
Sponsors' Hour:	Karen Worley	205-331-9233
Worship:	Holly McCollum	205-242-5966
Photographer:	Jim DeFord	205-330-9417
Humble Servant:	Bob Hoffman	205-752-6006

Name	City	Sponsor
Josh Vanschoiack	Athens	Amanda Hargrove
JoeMartin	Huntsville	Jeff Langhout
Wil Ransom	Huntsville	Vern Spearman
Jeff Berman	Owens Cross Rds.	Jay Berman
Adam Johnson	Pickensville	Tim Alexander

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 466
May 18-21, 2017**

Lay Director	Teresa Holderfield (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Lisa Smith (Priority) Andrea Marbut (Fourth Day) Sherri Watson Pam Lang Tami Kelly Nancy Parker
Spiritual Director	Melisa Saccucci (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	TBA (Prevenient Grace) Mark Mayo (Justifying Grace) Tony Campbell (Sanctifying Grace) TBA (Obstacles)
Music	Rhonda Dehaven
Asst. Table Leaders	Lisa Cronan (Priesthood) Cat Marbut (Study) Lisa Dobbins (Discipleship) Patsy Mayo (Changing Our World) TBA (Christian Action) Michele Messer (Body of Christ) Cathy Williams (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Pam Walden Jeanne Mabeus Van Pruitt Amy Talton Peggy Lindsay Laura Harris Crystal Wain
Board Rep.	Jacque Clay, Ann Seay Frazier

Name	City	Sponsor
Tammy Loy	Gurley	Leigh Helveston

Committees

Agape:	TBA
Meal Service:	Bob DeHaven 205-835-0686
Refreshments:	Sheila Johnson 256-239-8291
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Don Lang 256-673-1713
Housing:	Clint Stanley 256-504-0275
Candlelight:	Don Johnson 256-453-5708
Clean-up:	TBA
Closing:	TBA
Entertainment:	G & Carol Scroggin 256-766-4102
Follow-up:	TBA
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Fran Elmore 256-891-1022
Sponsors' Hour:	Sandra Pankey 256-572-3723
Worship	Missy Bissonnette 256-558-2127
Photographer:	Laura Durbin 256-490-3012
Humble Servant:	Laura Durbin

The Grapevine

P.O. Box 1216
Talladega, AL 35161

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Gadsden, AL
Permit No. 180

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

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.

Judy Trull (156), for the loss of her brother, Arnold Ward

The Family of **John Ayers (432)**

The family of **Joey Kilpatrick (444)**

Ruth Johnson (303), for the loss of her brother, Thomas Hale, Jr.

James W. Long (186), for the loss of his sister, Ann Flower.

The family of Neil Laughridge (44)

Denise Davis (198), Lee Ann O'Toole (82) and Larry Davis (76), for the loss of their father, Chester H. Doss.