

Alabama Emmaus Community News

# The Grapevine

Vol. 14 No. 4

August 2016

## Community Humble Servants

**Mike Shotts**  
Lay Director

**Tony Jones**  
Spiritual Director

**Ricky Hall**  
Asst. Lay Director

**???**  
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

## Regardless...it works

By **MIKESHOTTS**

Lay Director

Proverbs 19:11

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

I saw a friend of mine the other day and as I walked up to him, I just made a common greeting of "Hey, what do you know?" He stopped what he was doing and replied "If you put it together correctly, it will work". My usual reply to such a question is "not much" or "very little". Bob's reply gave me pause to think how true that statement really is.

God put everything together and it does work, we just keep trying to mess it up. This has been a summer that seems to have been messed up. After the terror attacks and the shootings, we have seen, it is a wonder that God does not want to start over and put everything back together once again. This year reminds me of the presidential election year of 1968. I was 17 and I still remember watching Walter Cronkite on our newly acquired

color television, when the Democratic Party held its convention in Chicago. I remember the National Guard holding back lines of protesters led by the "Yuppies" and "Black Panthers" Martin Luther King was assassinated in April of 1968, and Robert Kennedy was assassinated in June of 1968 and I just knew everything had come apart, because everything was going wrong.

I know people were praying back in 1968 and everything worked out. We need to keep praying for peace and unity. We need to pray for the 2016 presidential election. Everything will work out, because God is in charge.

Another thing that was put together correctly is the Emmaus Program and it does work. I know some folks say that if we left well enough alone everything would be OK. We do keep changing rules and procedures in order to keep up with the International Emmaus program and to correct issues that have come up within several walks. We recently updated our standing rules, (Please see Shotts Page 2.)

## Everything has its season

By **TONY JONES**

Spiritual Director

*To everything there is a season!* (Ecclesiastes 3:7)

True to the author of Ecclesiastes, it appears we are at the start of another Emmaus season. My name is Tony Jones. I boast that I am the husband of Shannon, dad to Jackie, Jamie, and Jessie, and starting this month, I will become your Community Spiritual Director.

So, for a season you will bear witness to my affection for this community and its members—both current and future. Many might say you will endure wordy Saturday nights, and typo laden *Grapevine* ar-

ticles. However, above all...you will recognize my love for God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the power of The Holy Spirit.

Hopefully, we will share moments of challenging dialogue about how we can make our Emmaus Community, our churches, and ourselves better tomorrow than today. God has given us a season...let us not waste it.

The rest of that Ecclesiastes verse reminds us there is a *time for every purpose under heaven*. For me, this verse about *time* and *purpose* raises great concern. Time flies!

It was no time at all when I said that I would serve a year as the Assistant Spiritual Director,

and now that time has come to an end. It seems like yesterday that Shannon and I were getting married, and this summer we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary—time flies!

It seems like yesterday that Jackie, Jamie, or Jessie was being born, and now they are 21, 20, and 19—time flies!

It also seemed like yesterday that I was saying yes to Jesus as Lord of my life and that was 26 years ago—time flies! When you really think about your life, you are reminded to just how precious *time* really is!

(Please see Jones Page 2.)

## To be continued...

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS  
Community Coordinator

*But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. ~ Matthew 7:14*

Recently I was looking through some old articles I had written and things have certainly changed. Not that many years ago we were averaging 46 pilgrims on each Walk, and I was maintaining a waiting list. As you have noticed, the number of walks has been reduced.

This is because the applications have decreased. We are not sure why applications have dropped off.

Smaller walks are not necessarily bad news. 28 – 35 pilgrims per Walk is much better than 49 plus pilgrims, for a couple of reasons.

The logistics of the Walk work much more smoothly, relieving the pressure to hurry, hurry, hurry! Better still, the smaller number on tables greatly improves the dynamics in the conference room by allowing pilgrims to share more, discuss more and get to know each other even better. However, decreased numbers could drive up the cost of the Walk per pilgrim and eventually result in higher fees. So shrinking walks is a mixed blessing.

We all need to pray and sponsor people who will take the lessons and experience and become leaders in their home churches.

I am not asking you to sponsor someone because we want to get the numbers up, but to continue a Walk we must maintain at least 20 confirmed pilgrims for a Walk to be held. If you have a lady you would like to sponsor, now would be a good time for we have three walks remaining this year.

The next men's walk will be Walk 463, March 2-5, 2017. The invitations to Walk 460 will be mailed soon. I hope to hear from you.

Remember: this is not a numbers game. So if you want to sponsor someone, please do it for the right reasons. We will continue!

**(Editor's Note: For a current list of Pilgrim information, please see Page 3.)**

De Colores,  
Carolyn Phillips  
Talladega 1<sup>st</sup> UMC  
Walk 63, Table of Ruth

### *The Grapevine*

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## Jones

(Continued From Page 1.)

However, that is just one part of Ecclesiastes, but what about our *purpose*?

For me it's difficult to separate *time* and *purpose*. If I acknowledge that *time* is fleeting then what part of my *time* here on earth have I wasted?

What part of it was purposeful? We preachers, often use Matthew 25:14-30 to remind our congregations about the use of the wealth that God has trusted us with, but what if we applied that parable to the way we spend our *time*?

Would the *Master* be pleased with his *servants*? What if we moved through our day with great *purpose*? What if the ebb and flow of our life where the organized movements that reflect God grace? We have *purpose*, and that is to live our life in such a way as to reflect the love Christ.

We are called to worship God, not just Sundays, but every-day! We are called to empty ourselves in the greatest commandment –*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind. Oh, and the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself*(Matt. 22:36-40).

For the coming year, let us covenant with each other and God to not waste a single moment that has been given to us as a gift. Let us sponsor more people for their appointed time at Emmaus.

Let us work in our clusters with great *purpose*. And, let us all become better leaders in our own congregations so that we can make the church that place of hope until our *time* has ended.

It will be then that we will hear the Master say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*"

Time flies!

What did you do today?

DeColores!

-Tony

## Shotts

(Continued From Page 1.)

which are past actions of the board, along with clarifications of previous rules. We did make several significant changes that involve Spiritual Directors of Walks and some to conform to International Emmaus Standards.

If you have not seen the new "Standing Rules," please ask you cluster leader or board representative, who have copies of them. We are still not in compliance with all of the International Emmaus Rules and I don't believe we will ever be in a position of complete compliance.

The Standing Rules are outside of the Alabama Emmaus Community By-Laws, which require a vote of the community to change.

I would also like to thank Mac Buttram for serving as our Community Spiritual Director for the past year. Mac was on Walk #1 and has always been an important part of the Alabama Emmaus Community.

Mac has done an outstanding job as ASD for the past year. Tony Jones has been the Assistant Community Spiritual Director and will take over as the Alabama Emmaus Community Spiritual Director in August. As we did with Mac, we welcome Tony's input and leadership. Please continue to pray for upcoming Alabama Emmaus Walks.

DeColores, Mike

In the January overnight meeting of the Alabama Emmaus Board of Directors, the following priorities were established:

1. Concentrate on sponsoring younger people and on minorities.
2. Emphasize reunion groups.
3. Enhance communication – put newsletters in members’ hands

It was noted that the majority of active Community members now have reached the age to have adult children and younger Pilgrims would add vitality. The group was told that International Director, Stephane Brooks recommends that Clusters should capture black churches by sponsoring three people from a congregation – one male, one female and the

preacher. These should be given scholarships, but the responsibility to sponsor others would be theirs going forward.

The board believes Reunion Groups are the heartbeat of the Community and serve as the bridge to connect the newest members to the structures of all the Fourth Days. In an effort to enhance communication throughout the Community, a link to the newsletter, *The Grapevine*, was sent to all Cluster leaders to insure that everyone knows when it is published and can see it.

The effort is to get as much information as possible into the hands of all Cluster members. In addition, an Emmaus Facebook page was created to further communicate. It is for Alabama Emmaus Com-

munity members only and names will be verified by the database. No one can post but the Administrator, but once a person ‘likes’ it, it can be in their news feed.

In February a committee was named to revise the Standing Rules. These are an attachment to the Community By-Laws. While changes to the By-Laws require a vote of the Community, the board may amend the Standing rules.

In May the revisions to the rules were approved by the Board of Directors. There are several updates to team eligibility, the main one being that the Spiritual Director of a Walk is no longer required to be an Elder in the United Methodist church.

There are stipulations to this process, **(Please see Actions Page 6.)**

## Current Pilgrim Scheduling Information

WALK	DATE	GENDER	SCHEDULED	INVITED	ACCEPTED
458	Aug. 25-28	Men	40	40	35
459	Sep. 15-18	Women	22	22	5
460	Oct. 6-9	Women	7	0	0
461	Nov. 3-6	Women	1	0	0

## UPCOMING WALKS

WALK	DATE	LAYDIRECTOR	SPIRITUALDIRECTOR	CLUSTER	BOARDREP
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 459  
September 15-18, 2016**

Lay Director	Karen Cotton (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Marty Bryan (Priority) Sherry Johnson (Fourth Day) Susan Lewis Dottie Nelson Layne Salvador Joyce Smith
Spiritual Director	Sherill Clontz (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Todd Owen (Prevenient Grace) Ron Schultz (Justifying Grace) Rick Owen (Sanctifying Grace) Dorothy Ann Webster (Obstacles)
Music	Mark Gero
Asst. Table Leaders	Lola Spearman (Priesthood) Joan Manning (Study) Melissa Harkins (Discipleship) Linda Case (Changing Our World) Hillary Dunham (Christian Action) Jana Killen (Body of Christ) Amy Boyle (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Laura Bracey Chris Bragg Debbie Collins Alice Gero Kathy Lawter Sandy May Mary Williams
Board Rep.	Billy Bell, Bil Beatty

**Committees**

Agape:	Esco Beatty	256-536-4327
Meal Service:	Darrul Martin	256-425-1211
Refreshments:	Debbie Weaver	256-679-3548
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Anne Whitfield	256-534-2193
Housing:	Al Killen	256-426-3910
Candlelight:	Peter Loveman	256-503-1580
Clean-up:	Tim Cotton	256-880-0225
Closing:	Jeremy Banks	256-278-1889
Entertainment:	Anisa Graner	256-864-0702
Follow-up:	Ann Turner	256-650-5012
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Vern Spearman	256-656-1126
Sponsors' Hour:	Roger Crowson	256-337-3014
Worship:	Stacy Hedden	256-509-6127
Photographer:	Rica McRoy	256-527-2906
Humble Servant:	Tim Cotton	

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Amanda Williams	Albertville	Tami Kelly & Anne Sweitzer
Lisa Pierce	Albertville	Patsy Johnson
Darrienda Stroud	Alexander City	Cathy & Mike Parker
Ashley Barksdale	Caledonia	Jaime Rickert
Valerie Leonard	Cedar Bluff	Jason Smith & Judy Vick
Patsy Cosby	Fayette	Beth Morris & Dana Gilliam
Betty Coats	Florence	Ray Pruitt
Bonnie Pruitt	Florence	Ray Pruitt
Vicki Hardy	Florence	Ray Pruitt
Jessica Powers	Hazel Green	Susan Payne
Cathy Patnaik	Huntsville	Rica McRoy & Teek Patnaik
Sarah Crain	Huntsville	Rica McRoy & Teek Patnaik
Liz Thornton	Huntsville	Joy Williams
Lisa Edge	Huntsville	Rebecca McMurray
Keshia Diesing	Jacksonville	Bernice George
Jess Wood	Livingston	Mary Grace Edmonds
Judy Vafeas	Muscle Shoals	Denise Wilson
Tammy Davis	New Market	David Wilson & Bonnie Willson
Martha Ann Fuller	Odenville	Brandi Guthrie & Cindy Ledkins
Tammy Wilson	Union Grove	Jamie Compton
Brenda Wright	Vernon	Joyce Anne Woods

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 460  
October 6-9, 2016**

Lay Director	LaShawn Scholl (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Suzanne Scott Trammell (Priority) Donna Ambrosius (Fourth Day) Lisa Walls Elliott Roxann Edsall Barb Heisey Linda Smith
Spiritual Director	Vicki Cater (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Roger Short (Prevenient Grace) Carolyn Goza (Justifying Grace) Chuck Cater (Sanctifying Grace) Alecia Rhodes (Obstacles)
Music	Charlie Beavers
Asst. Table Leaders	Melissa Jarrell (Priesthood) Kathy Broadhead (Study) Kay Davis (Discipleship) Monica Gallups (Changing Our World) Joy Hulsey (Christian Action) Dianna McQueen (Body of Christ) Suzanne Frazier (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Andrea VonHermann Rhonda Rush Jane Hagler Katie Allen Wanda Williams Wendy Wright Elaine Wildsmith
Board Rep.	Julie English, Ruth Ann Clay

**Committees**

Agape:	Tammy Carpenter 205-420-1376
Meal Service:	Rick Pearson 205-368-2878
Refreshments:	Denise Cone 205-253-1522
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Sam Frazier 205-620-1747
Housing:	Martin Vonhermann 205-223-8588
Candlelight:	John McQueen 205-988-3051
Clean-up:	Gerald Marlow 205-999-0687
Closing:	Ricky Ruston 205-516-7880
Entertainment:	TBD
Follow-up:	Lynn Carmichael 205-616-3018
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Pam Townsend 205-215-8543
Sponsors' Hour:	Carol Rayfield 205-410-8732
Worship:	Merrie Lynn Pearson 205-907-0948
Photographer:	Taylor Hulsey 251-716-7329
Humble Servant:	Butch Wildsmith 205-234-4768

Name	City	Sponsor
Susan Green-Preston	Albertville	Tammy Jackson
Holli Vining	Bessemer	Matt & Andrea Armstrong
Carrie Kimbrell	Guntersville	Shirley Chupp
Virginia Key	Hanceville	Sandy Parker
Stephanie Barnett	Huntsville	Wren Clanton
Suzi McGehee	Huntsville	Tony McGehee & Andrea Jones
Jackie Yarbrough	Oneonta	V J Brown
Carol Garrett	Sylacauga	Mary Nelson
Memory Finn	Sylacauga	Judie Wesson

## *The Grapevine*

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Talladega, AL 35161

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

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## Actions

(Continued From Page 3.)

stated in the rules. The updated documents were disseminated to Cluster leaders and made available at the Annual Training Event.

The Franklin County Cluster bought new tables for the Conference Room earlier this year, and the Franklin/Haleyville/Hamilton Cluster Grouping purchased a new refrigerator for the refreshment kitchen. A new projector was needed for the Conference Room and the Birmingham South Cluster provided the funds to purchase it.

In May a committee charged with updating the Housing & Registration Guidelines and the Closing Guidelines brought revisions to the board for approval. The changes were made approved and are now a part of team literature.

**The Alabama Emmaus  
Community  
Board of Directors welcomes  
Tony Jones  
as the  
Community Spiritual Director  
for the next 12 months.**

## *Praying for You*

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

**Debbie Youngs (75)**, for the loss of her husband, **John Youngs (287)**

**Jack Galgay (316)**, for the loss of his wife, **Noreen Galgay (190)**

**Carl Grote (253)**, for the loss of his wife, Carole Grote

**Dan Bell (229)**, for the loss of his mother, Vera Bell

The family of **Clayton Suddith (85)**

**June Davidson (243)**, for the loss of her husband, **John Davidson (257)**