



Vol. 19 No. 5

Alabama Emmaus Community News

# The Grapevine

August 2020

## Community Humble Servants

**Terrie Alexander**  
Lay Director

**Gary Formby**  
Spiritual Director

**Teresa Holderfield**  
Asst. Lay Director

**John Simmons**  
Asst. Spiritual Director

**Angel Rait**  
Community Coordinator

**Jim Sims**  
Treasurer

**Donna Ambrosius**  
**Debra Baker**  
**Linda Case**  
**Karen Cotton**  
**Tami Glenn**  
**Teresa Holderfield**  
**Sherry Lockhart**  
**Dianna McQueen**  
**Jackie Mize**  
**Brian Moore**  
**Randy Nelson**  
**Kay Parker-Phillips**  
**Jaime Rickert**  
**Deanna Shotts**  
**Melanie Skillman**  
**Paul Webb**  
Board Representatives

**Patricia Bush**  
Literature

**Bob Manney**  
Supplies

**Bruce Parris**  
Community Agape

**Dan Bell**  
Name Tags

## Donations sustain Community

By **TERRIE ALEXANDER**  
Lay Director

Dear Alabama Emmaus Family,

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your generous donations from both individuals and clusters. Your gifts have been a blessing that will help our Alabama Emmaus Community survive this pandemic.

I keep hearing the words: "This too shall pass" over and over in my head. These words do not make these times easier, but it does help me to remember that I have been just really want-

ing everything with COVID-19 to pass over and keep on going. I guess another way to say it would be that I want God to send it home or back where it came from. I have a feeling I am not alone in this.

Yes, this is a problem that I do not want to deal with, almost like the story in the Bible about Jesus feeding the 5,000. In Matthew 14:13-21, the crowds of followers came to Jesus to hear his teaching and to be healed from all sorts of sickness. This lasted into the evening and there was no food for them. The

disciples went to Jesus and basically said, "Send them back to town to buy food for themselves" or "Let them go on their way." Maybe this was a problem that they did not want to deal with at this time, and they wanted things to go back to normal. I am wondering if that is what is happening with the COVID-19 situation. Remembering the story in Matthew, I know that Jesus answered the disciples by telling them that the crowds of people did not need to go away. "You

(Please See Alexander Page 2)

## Unusual year brings creativity

By **DOROTHY ANN WEBSTER**  
Outgoing Spiritual Director

I think it is safe to say that 2020 has been an unusual year! In the midst of a pandemic, layoffs and turmoil in our nation, we have also seen some of the best of God's people who have gone the extra mile to care for others, to share from their abundance and to make sacrifices to their way of life. I once heard that you could look at any crisis as a disaster or as an opportunity. With God's help, we have tried to look for the opportunities presented to us in this most unusual year.

The Alabama Emmaus Community has stepped up, both sacrificially and creatively. While we're not able to have our walks right now, we've seen outdoor-socially-distanced cluster picnics, reunion groups and board meetings by zoom, and creative crafters working ahead on agape. The Board is exploring new ways of training the community to meet the challenges of this new day, and Angel Rait has been finding new ways to en-

sure the Emmaus Office is able to equip us to the fullest extent.

Community Spiritual Directors transition in August. As your out-going CSD, I am thankful to have been able to serve in both 2019-2020 pre-Covid days and in these unique 2020 Covid times. I have had the privilege of seeing this community serve faithfully in both circumstances, and it has been an inspiration. As my tenure comes to an end, I thank God for the opportunities we have enjoyed together.

I look forward to seeing how God will lead us in the year to come, as the Rev. Gary Formby serves as our Community Spiritual Director, and the Rev. John Simmons comes to serve as our Community Assistant Spiritual Director. Please keep both of them in your prayers, as well as our lay leadership, as they lead us creatively, seeking new opportunities to help us all proclaim the good news of Christ's love.

DeColores! Dorothy Ann Webster

### IMPORTANT NOTICE...

All 2020 Walks have been postponed until 2021.  
Please see the listing on Page 2 for a  
TENTATIVE schedule at this time.

# Alexander

(Continued from Page 1.)

give them something to eat.”

Emmaus family, I can hear in this story that the answer is not just to pray, “Please make it go away,” but to do what we can using the power that we are given through Jesus Christ our Lord, to “give them something to eat,” not physically but spiritually.

We as a loving community know how to feed people physically. We always hear the pilgrims and teams talk about how much food we share together. Now, I am asking for you to keep sharing your gifts and graces to feed each other spiritually and to share that food beyond Emmaus. Thinking, praying, studying, and training

together! As the body of God’s people we can reach down deep into our treasure chest of holy community to help train, support, reach out, and feed one another at this time.

The Alabama Emmaus Community Board members are in the process of planning ways in which we can help in training, supporting, and reaching out by using Zoom and other resources. Please be in prayer for our time of responding to this message from Matthew 14:16: “You give them something to eat.” So let us become like the little boy who brought the bread and fish to Jesus and bring our gifts and graces so that all can be satisfied. DeColores! Terrie Alexander

### TENTATIVE 2021 Schedule

WALK	DATE	GENDER
494	Feb 4-7	W
495	Mar 4-7	M
496	Apr 8-11	W
497	May 20-23	M
498	Jun 17-20	W
499	Jul 15-18	W
500	Aug 12-15	M
501	Aug 26-29	W
502	Sep 9-12	W
503	Oct 14-17	M

### *Amid our challenges*

## We need fellowship

By ANGEL RAIT  
Community Coordinator

I hope you are staying well and wearing your mask. It is definitely a different world we are living in. I would say one of the most important things we can do during this time is to stay in touch with those we love. I have 2 daughters, one close by that I get to see often, but the other is in Indiana, and I haven’t seen her and her family since Christmas. If it were not for FaceTime, I would go crazy without getting to see my GRANDson. Because of the ways we are able to communicate today, we were able to ZOOM his 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and see him blow out his candles and open his gifts. It wasn’t what we had planned, but it was the way it was supposed to be and it was almost as good as being there.

Right now it is so important to stay in touch with our Emmaus Community as well. I certainly do miss our cluster meetings, and I was so excited to hear that we will be able to meet outside this month. I can’t wait to see my extended family even if it has to be at a distance and with a mask.

I miss being at Camp. I miss the Board Meetings, the Walks, and just being in community with my friends. This is not how we planned for Emmaus to be, but it is the way it has to be right now.

I know that you will join me in keeping Emmaus and Camp in your prayers so that we can get back to doing Kingdom work soon. We also need to be in prayer for those with COVID and for a vaccine to be found soon. In the meantime, encourage your cluster to meet or continue to meet on a monthly basis.

I know some are meeting at a distance in a church, some outside in parks, some are ZOOMING. It really doesn’t matter how you are meeting, just meet. Some reunion groups are also continuing to meet in the same way. We need the fellowship of our friends now more than ever.

All walks are tentatively scheduled to resume in February. The office is open, so go ahead and send in those applications. This is one way to keep the “Emmaus Fire” going so that the flame of Christ continues to shine brightly through you.

DeColores,  
Angel Rait, sjc #173

### *Praying for You*

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

- To **Frank Ellison (3)** in the loss of his wife,  
**Donna Ellison (4)**
- To **Marie Stribling (348)** in the loss of her husband,  
**Sam Stribling (297)**
- To **Brenda Reed (77)** in the loss of her husband,  
**Bill Reed (159)**
- To **Amy Hix Cockrell** in the loss of her father,  
Bill Hix
- To **Dianne Scott (86)** in the loss of her mother,  
Pat Thompson

### Thanks...

**Rev. Dorothy Ann Webster**  
for your service as our SD!

### *The Grapevine*

Alabama Emmaus Office, P.O. Box 38  
Cropwell, AL 35054  
205-812-0345

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).