

New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



NEW COVENANT NOTES SPRING AND SUMMER 2019

Inside This Issue

Community Lay Director.....	1-2
Gathering Information.....	1
Community Spiritual Director.....	3
Women's Walk Lay Director.....	4
Men's Walk Lay Director.....	5
Men's Walk Spiritual Director.....	6
Spring & Summer Walk Schedule....	7
Follow Up Gathering Information...	7
Face To Face.....	8-9
Face To Face Spiritual Director.....	10
Sponsorship.....	11
Volunteer Information.....	12
72 Hour Prayer Tips.....	13-14
Online Resources.....	15
Chrysalis.....	16
Kairos.....	17

Monthly Gatherings

Where: Friendship Church

16479 Lucas Ferry Road
Athens, AL 35611

When: 3rd Friday of Every Month

Time: 6:30 pm – Meal

7:29 pm-- Worship

A Message from Our Community Lay Director

DeColores my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

In 2011 I was approached by a lady at church who said God had laid my name on her heart to sponsor on the Walk to Emmaus. I had just started back to church after a long hiatus away and had never heard of the Walk to Emmaus! I prayed about it and decided if God had laid me on someone's heart I needed to go! Needless to say, that weekend changed my life forever. It breathed a spirit of life in me that I had never felt before. I knew I had to do something with it, so I became more involved in my local church and started serving on the outside teams for the Emmaus walks. 8 years later I am humbled and honored to serve as your Community Lay Director for 2019. I ask for your prayers of support and guidance for me and my fellow board members throughout this year as we make decisions that affect the community as a whole and steer a course for the future.

This is going to be an exciting year as we celebrate our 100th Walk in September!

There are many opportunities to worship and serve within our community, whether it's working a walk, sponsoring a pilgrim, making agape, signing up for prayer vigils or attending community events. I encourage you to attend our monthly Gatherings held on the 3rd Friday of each month at Friendship UMC in Athens. Food and Fellowship begin at 6:30 followed by Praise and Worship at 7:29. Our annual Community Picnic will be August 15th. The board furnishes all the food and drinks! Please make plans to be there!

At the end of March, we transitioned into a new database under the management of Upper Room. The database will contain the name of every individual that has ever attended or worked a walk in the New Covenant Emmaus Community since 1994. It is used to register pilgrims, assist team selection for walks and provide contact information. The major difference is that the old database used names as identifiers and the new database will use email addresses. Please keep your email addresses updated! The new features will include online options for signing up for the 72 Hour Prayer Vigil and paying walk fees. Once the transfer is complete, the Community will be asked by email, to join the database.

Please be in prayer for God to lay a name on your heart to sponsor! It might just change someone's life to see Jesus face to face.

In His Love,

Robbie Walls

Community Lay Director



Spiritual Director's Corner

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

"Get away with me!" What an incredible invitation from Jesus! He invites us to take our places beside Him on the journey of discovering who He is and who we are in Him. When we take His custom-made yolk, we are released from the ill-fitting yokes that wear us down. Let's take a moment to consider these words through the lens of the seventy-two-hour experiences we share known as the Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis and Face to Face.

Many pilgrims arrive tired and burned out. They have labored, sometimes for years, under heavy ill-fitting yokes fashioned by false impressions of spirituality, guilt, unspeakable loss, feelings of unworthiness, bitterness, expectations of others, etc. Through a seventy-two-hour encounter with the resurrected Christ, remarkable transformations can take place as God's agape love and grace-filled truth break the bondage of heavy yokes. Pilgrims enter fourth days with new freedom and lightness of heart. Heavyhearted trudging is replaced with radiant joy and celebration as hearts learn to dance to the "unforced rhythms of grace."

Amazing things can happen between the "burned out" starting point and the light and free dance of grace-full hearts. During the time spent in the company of Jesus and other pilgrims, the weary recover their lives and receive real rest. There are many opportunities to discard heavy yokes and "learn the rhythms of grace" through worship, prayer, contemplation, communion and other means of grace. Pilgrims are invited to accept a custom-fitted yoke that draws them into partnership with the Savior of the world. He is the stronger, wiser partner who summons each to come alongside even as He shoulders the heavier portion of the load. He bore the whole weight of Calvary's beam and continues to do the heavy lifting daily.

Have you realized the true freedom of taking Christ's yoke? Perhaps that moment for many happens near the end of the seventy-two hours when each pilgrim is called by name to the front of the chapel to receive a cross. As one lowers his or her head and leans forward, Christ's custom-made yoke is slipped around each neck as these words of covenant are spoken, "Christ is counting on you! And I am counting on Christ!"

De Colores!

Sharon Keffer

Community Spiritual Director



De Colores

*Luke 24:32 They asked each other,
“Were not our hearts burning within us
while he talked with us on the road and
opened the scriptures to us?”*

Women’s Walk #98 – Lay Director

It has been a year since I was asked to serve as the Lay Director for Walk 98. That seems so long ago, but as the walk quickly approaches I stand amazed at how God has guided the planning process. Each step of the way I have felt His sweet spirit envelop me and fill me with a sense of peace. He has guided me, corrected me and consistently reminded me that He is in charge. He has put together “His” team to serve on this walk. The team has begun preparation and anxiously awaits to see what God has in store. The Pilgrims who will attend are still being identified and I have no doubt that every individual who will be at the camp will be there by divine appointment. Matthew 5:16 says, “In the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” My prayer is that God’s light will shine through every team member and everything we do will glorify Him, and that the glory and light of God will shine down on each pilgrim.

DeColores!

Debbie Reese
Walk 98 Lay Director

Support Coordinator: David Crouch

Agape Lead: Barry Farrar

Refreshments Lead: Gail Cooper

Meal Service Lead: Teresa Farrar



DeColores

Men's Walk #99 – Lay Director

Can you believe that training for our Spring Men's walk #99 will soon be here? Please join me in praising God and thanking Him for the blessings that He has poured out on the planning and assembling of our community's team. I also ask that you join me in praying for God to move in a special way this Spring for both the women's and men's walks. Please pray that the pilgrims, the team members and community will share the love of Christ in a tangible way. Please pray for God's hand on you and the community for His will to be done in the selection of pilgrims.

Pilgrim applications are online on our website. Thank you in advance for your prayers and your participation in candlelight. I can easily remember how overwhelming it was to experience the love of Christ demonstrated by our community. What a blessing it is for all of us to be a part of this ministry!

In Christ,

Chuck Polk
Lay Director Men's Walk #99

Support Coordinator: Cindy Haney

Agape Lead: Kemberley Barnes

Refreshments Lead: Gail Cooper

Meal Service Lead: Jane Lusk



Men's Walk #99 – Spiritual Director

I have the honor of having been given the title of Spiritual Director for this Men's Walk. It truly is a privilege to serve in this position. Too many times people look at preachers and think "they have it all together and walk close with God everyday." Sorry, but that is just not true. We struggle with temptation, we agonize over things we have said and wish we had done better, and we get nervous and anxious before speaking just like everyone else does. For many years I asked people to pray for me before I spoke, actually asking them to pray for my "performance" hoping I'd speak clearly and plainly so that God could use my words to touch people. Now in my later years I have realized it has nothing to do with how well I speak nor how good my illustrations are. The truth is that even if I stutter or stammer or forget half of what I had planned to say, if God can use that to touch someone's heart then that is what is most important. So, I do ask that you pray for me and for all of the speakers on this walk. But, don't pray that we'll do well, pray that God can use us in some way to touch hearts. The most important thing will never be our performance, but what He can use in the hearts of the pilgrims and in each of us working the walk as well.

Thank You,

Bill Alexander



Spring & Summer 2019 Walk Schedule

Women's Walk # 98 – April 25 – 28

Men's Walk # 99 – May 2-5

Chrysalis Boy's Flight #49 – May 25-27

Chrysalis Girls Flight #50 – Aug 31- Sept 2

Face to Face Encounter # 5

July 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26

Follow Up Gathering for Walks #98 & #99

May 17, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Friendship United Methodist Church

16749 Lucas Ferry Road

Athens, AL 35611



An Experience in the Emmaus Tradition for 60 and Older.

Face to Face is designed and developed by the Upper Room. It is designed to challenge and equip pilgrims for Christian Action. This short course in Christianity will help pilgrims to become more effective disciples of Jesus Christ and actively engage in God's mission in the world.

This program is for persons 60 and older who have never been on a Walk to Emmaus. It was developed for this age group because their health risks and energy levels require a longer schedule with shorter sessions. It is tailored to meet senior men and women on their terms. Men and women will be together in the conference room.

The eight sessions will offer 15 talks about God's love and grace. The sessions will offer exciting and hospitable opportunities for Christian learning. There will be tasty refreshments, lots of laughs, surprising personal encounters and spiritual experiences. There will be worship, communion, singing, joking with one another and simply experiencing an avalanche of God's grace and love.

Applications for the next Face to Face Encounter will be available in late Fall and can be printed from the New Covenant Emmaus website: www.newcovenantemmaus.com



Thoughts from the Lay Director of Encounter #4

It's been an amazing experience serving on the past Encounters and witnessing God work in the lives of pilgrims as well as the team. I guess the best description of the last several months would be the P experience.

Pray, Plan, Prepare, Pray, Practice, Pray, Pray has and Place with Him

God has revealed His Agape love in so many ways with prayer warriors praying, with His servants saying yes to the call, and with each and every hand that has been preparing agape gifts. I've never felt so much joy and peace. I've visited with many different churches and made many new friends. Standing up to speak about the NCEC Encounters as I witnessed of Jesus his love.

I look forward to this Encounter with not only the Joy for others but with a personal desire. My sister who has always wanted to go on "The Walk to Emmaus," will be a pilgrim on Encounter #4. Being handicapped and unable to do a walk, the encounter has given her and others a great opportunity to experience Agape Love.

To the New Covenant Emmaus Community "thank you," for your confidence in me and the prayers and love you shown in allowing me to be Lay Director. To the team who said yes when you received the call or text, "thank you," and to each one who prayed for Encounter #4, praise and thanks. It's has been a lifetime experience that I shall never forget. God has walked with us. My love to all of you, my heart is full.

Kay Dotson



Thoughts from Spiritual Director for Encounter #4

Face to Face Encounter number 4 is scheduled to begin on February 25th at Busby Church of God in Loretto, Tn. Lay Director is Kay Dotson and Spiritual Director is Rev. Carol Goforth. Candlelight will be on Tuesday, March 5th. The community will gather in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. The encounter will last for two weeks, ending on March 8th. Closing will be held in the sanctuary at 11:15 am.

Face to Face is our newest instrument for a spiritual formation experience for individuals in a community setting that is customized to meet the needs and requirements of retired persons. The theme is "Living in Grace." Face to Face is designed for persons aged sixty or older. Emmaus values and rituals are compatible with the needs and interests of seniors. Sessions are shorter, talks are abbreviated, and participants will enjoy the opportunity to worship, sing, joke, experience God's grace, and discover Christ again in this experience designed by the International Office of the Walk to Emmaus at Upper Room Ministries.

We encourage you to participate in candlelight and closing to welcome these new pilgrims into the New Covenant Emmaus Community.

Carol Goforth



Sponsorship—The Most Important Job of All

Sponsorship is the foundation of a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that is fulfilling its true purpose - the development of Christian leaders to strengthen our local churches.

A “sponsor” is one who takes responsibility for another. The suffix “ship” refers to the skill involved in the activity. Sponsorship is the skill of taking responsibility for another. First and foremost, it requires prayer. Sponsorship is a dynamic partnership between you and God. It will also require your time, energy and dedication.

The sponsorship process begins with prayer. Commit the process to God and rely upon Him to direct you to the individual or couple. You must be open and available to allow God to work through you.

It is important to remember that not everyone is an appropriate sponsor choice. A person with beliefs about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that differ from the traditional Christian belief of the Holy Trinity would not be a good sponsor choice. The walk is designed to bring together the body of Christ and controversy over doctrine can lead to divisiveness during the walk. Persons in the middle of an emotional crisis, such as a family breakup or severe grief, or that are psychologically unstable, also should not be considered. Pray for guidance when these circumstances appear to be present.

Those to consider for sponsorship include individuals and couples that are willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith. They know that God can and has made a difference in their lives and they exhibit an excitement about being a Christian. Another example of those to consider for sponsorship are those that are already leaders in their church, including clergy - those that receive joy from serving God in the little ways and willingly do whatever is asked of them.

This is not a quick and easy process and should not be taken lightly. It may take a long time before you have a response from God about who you should sponsor. Don't be discouraged. God's timing is always perfect.

The aim of sponsorship is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will bring new life and vision to the church, congregation, home, workplace, and community - to build up the body of Christ.

We ♥ Volunteers

WILLING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

If it's been a while since you've been invited to serve on a Walk, or if you have yet to be invited to serve, please be sure you have filled out and submitted a volunteer form.

A link to this form is on the New Covenant Emmaus website:

<http://newcovenantemmaus.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Emmaus-Volunteer-Form-Jun-2010.doc>

You may also fill out this form online:

<http://newcovenantemmaus.com/volunteer-form.htm>

But if you have already done so, and still have not been invited to serve, please let the Registrar or any Board member know of your interest. We would love to have you join us in serving on an upcoming Walk.



72-Hour Prayer Tips

Often when passing around the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil for an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight we hear, “I can’t pray for a whole half-hour.” You’d be surprised how fast that half-hour can go! Following are some tips to help you focus your prayers during your commitment time. Use this as a guide but don’t limit your prayer time to just these tips. Begin by scanning the list and marking those items that touch you the most. These are the prayer points that the Spirit has led you too. Don’t feel pressured to pray the whole list; trust that God will lead others to pray and He will cover all the points on the list (and more). As you begin to pray for the items you marked, pause at each one and ask God what He would have you specifically pray about that point. When you can think of no more then move to the next item. If you should finish your list before your time is up then go back and pray about the ones you did not mark. You may want to make these “bullet” prayers as you read down the list. You’ll be amazed at how long you can actually pray when you commit yourself to giving the time! At the end you’ll find that you were a blessing to others and received a great blessing yourself as well.

Pray for the Pilgrims/Caterpillars: -Pray for them individually if you know their names or as a group. -Pray that walls would come down and hearts would be opened to understand the depth, the height, the breadth, and width of God’s love for them. -Pray that each participant would receive a personal touch from God during his or her journey. -Pray for the participants to be able to leave the world behind and give themselves to the weekend. -Pray for the families of the participants. -Pray protection for the participants as they leave the weekend behind and face the world again. -Pray that they will carry the weekend with them into their world.

Pray for the Team Members: -Pray for them individually if you know their names or as a group (Meal Service, Logistics, Conf Room, etc). -Pray that each team member would serve with humility and grace. -Pray that each team member would receive a renewed touch from God as they see the weekend through the eyes of those experiencing it for the first time. -Pray for the specific duties of teams that you may have participated in working with before. No one knows how hard it is or what could go wrong better than those who have experienced it! -Pray for protection and strength. -Pray that grace would abound when hiccups occur...and they always occur. -Pray for grace to abound so that the Pilgrims/Caterpillars never know a hiccup occurred.



72-Hour Prayer Tips

Pray for Defining Moments: Think back to your walk/flight and those events that meant the most to you - your defining moment. Allow God to take you back to that time. -Pray for each participant out of the heart of this memory. -Pray for the little moments that no one thinks gets noticed but might mean the world to someone else. -Pray for the weekend. -Pray that God is glorified by His will and ways being done. -Pray for protection over the weekend, the grounds, and the people. -Pray for the community as they gather to support special events. -Pray that God's Spirit and Truth would abound.

Pray the Lord's Prayer and think about how you could specifically apply moments of the weekend to it. Example: "...daily bread" Pray that the Bread of Life be broken and received with each talk. Pray about the moments of Communion /Lord's Supper. Pray for meal times and snack times. Pray that when it is over everyone involved will be able to say, "I came looking for Jesus and found Him here."

Are you looking for ways to enhance your spiritual growth and renewal?

Bible Gateway - <https://biblegateway.com> - Many translations, plus daily reading plans and other resources

Daly Hope with Rick Warren - <http://pastorrick.com> - Daily devotional and other resources

First 5 - <http://first5.org> - Apps and other resources for personal and group Bible study. Geared toward women, but all can benefit

Turning Point with David Jeremiah - <http://www.davidjeremiah.org> - Daily devotional and other resources

Desiring God - John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org> - Articles, sermons, free e-books and more

Upper Room Devotional - <http://devotional.upperroom.org> - Daily devotional from the organization that sponsors Walk to Emmaus

Insight for Living Devotional - Chuck Swindoll - <https://www.insight.org> - Daily devotional and many other resources

Our Daily Bread - <https://odb.org> - Daily devotional and other resources

Christian Classics Ethereal Library - <https://www.ccel.org> - "The mission of the Christian Classics Ethereal Library (CCEL) is to build up the church by making classic Christian literature widely available and promoting its use for edification and study by interested Christians, seekers and scholars."

The Bible Project - <http://thebibleproject.com> - An excellent source for short animated videos on every book of the Bible, themes and word studies

Bible Broadcasting Network - <http://www.bbnradio.org> - Many resources, including a free "Bible Institute" with many courses available. Somewhat antiquated website, but worth looking into for the content.

A Word with You - Ron Hutchcraft - <https://hutchcraft.com> - Daily inspirational messages and other resources

AllWorship - Free Christian Music - <http://www.allworship.com> - Christian music online and apps, devotions and other resources

Walk in the Word with James MacDonald - <http://jamesmacdonald.com> - Daily devotions, various resources

Seedbed - Daily Devotional - www.seedbed.com - Daily devotional and many other resources

Bible.com - <https://www.bible.com> - Bible online, apps, reading plans and other resources

Days of Praise - <http://www.icr.org> - Daily devotional and many other resources

Christian History Magazine - <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org> - Excellent resource for learning about the history of Christianity, various denominations and important historical figures in the life of the Church. Back issues available online.

Christianity Today (monthly magazine) - <http://www.christianitytoday.org> - "Since 1956, Christianity Today has challenged the church with real-world content that is timely, compelling, insightful, balanced - and biblical." **World** (biweekly news magazine) - <https://world.wng.org> - News presented from a conservative, evangelical perspective. Insightful commentary in each issue.

****Please note that while the websites listed above were suggested by members of the New Covenant community, their inclusion here does not imply endorsement by the New Covenant Emmaus Board of Directors or the Upper Room Ministries.**



News from the Butterfly Front

Greetings from the Chrysalis Butterflies!

Just to let you know a little bit of the happenings this year. We have had our new board members take their positions on the board and are eager to help this part of Christ's body become the best it is meant to be. A few upcoming events we have happening are

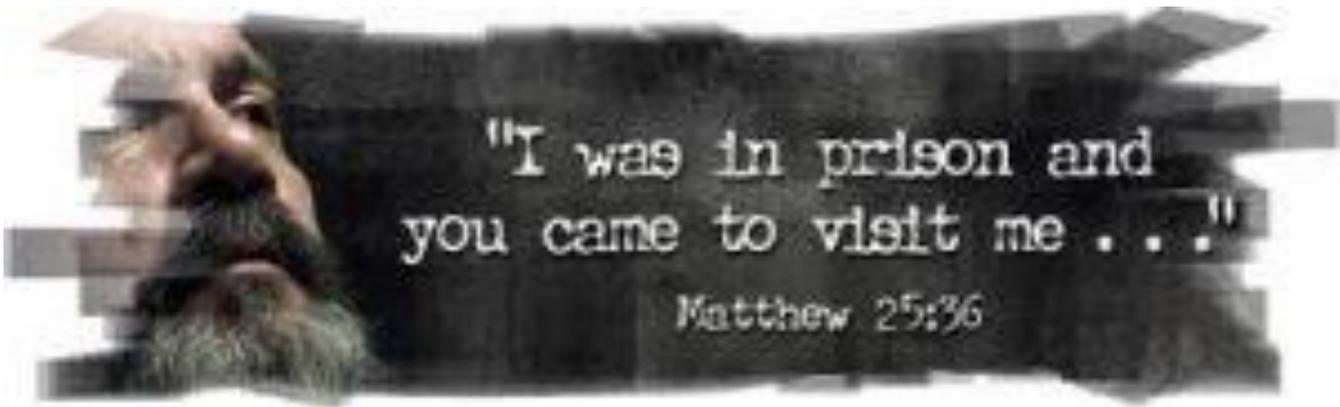
The NC Chrysalis Boy's Flight 49 will be taking place over Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27, 2019. The Flight will be led by the Holy Spirit, with Patrick Fulenwider as the Weekend Lay Director, Randy Lynch as the Weekend Spiritual Director, and Ramona Calhoun as the Outside Support Coordinator. We still have plenty of room for caterpillars age 15-21. It is the perfect time to get those young men sponsored.

We will be having a follow up gathering called a RuSH on June 8, 2019 from 3-5pm for all of our Chrysalis and Emmaus community. This is the perfect time to bring friends you think might be interested in going on a flight. They can get a little taste of how God moves in His unique way that is Chrysalis. We will also be hosting the monthly NCEC gathering in June.

Our next NC Chrysalis Girls Flight 50, (WOW), will be held over Labor Day this fall. The dates for this flight will be Aug. 31- Sept 2, 2019. This flight will be led by the Holy Spirit with Rachel Quinn as the Weekend Lay Director. We will have a follow up RuSH shortly after this flight as well.

If you know of a youth Pastor, leader, or worker whom may be interested in an Emmaus walk Chrysalis does offer up to 8 scholarships per year for an adult minus the application fee. If you would like to hear more about what Chrysalis is and would like a group to come to your church and share please feel free to contact a member of our board or visit ncchrysalis.org. You can find a caterpillar application there as well. I can't wait to see what God has in store this year!

Decolores and Fly with Christ!
Missy Weaver, CLD
New Covenant Chrysalis 2019



***Have you ever given serious thought to prison ministry?
(Jesus strongly suggests that you do!)***

Kairos Prison Ministry, sometimes referred to as “Emmaus Gone To Prison”, is active in our community at both Limestone Correctional Facility and the Decatur Work Release Center; and also at Julia Tutwiler Prison, the only women's prison in the state of Alabama. Several New Covenant Emmaus folks are regular volunteers in these programs. And you can become involved, too! Besides the “Inside Team” conference room, there is an all-important Support Team that includes kitchen staff, agape, prayer chapel, and logistics. There is a place here for you to serve!

You can help support these team by participating on the prayer vigils, writing letters to inmates, making placemat or poster agape, buying meal tickets (\$5), and baking home-made cookies.



God's Special Time

For more information and for team applications, visit the Alabama Kairos website at www.kairos-al.org, or contact Jack Lawrence at kpmlawrence@bellsouth.net.