

An Emmaus Community

127.0

# NEW COVENANT NOTES Spring 2023

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# **NCEC Board of Directors**

Tina Cook, Community Lay Director Daryl Randolph, Community Spiritual Director

Carol Goforth	Jesus Lopez
Sonya Shook	Connie Watkins
Jamie Polk	Lorie Vital
Kelly Watts	Carol Newsome
Jeremy Staggs	Rhae Brock
Wesley Lash	Kathleen Phraner
Thomas Kingery	



#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

De Colores my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I can't believe how fast this year is progressing. We have already begun training for our first events of 2023! Spring Walks #106 and #107 will be quickly followed by Chrysalis Flight #56 and Face to Face Encounter #8. It is such a blessing and so rewarding to see the *WHY* of Emmaus reflected in the lives of the Pilgrims & Caterpillars we serve within the New Covenant Community.

In January, our new Board of Directors Class of 2025 began their journey, or some might refer to it as *TRIAL* by fire. So much of what the Board does is out of sight of the community, yet vital to our mission of renewing the church.

And, without going into detail, I will assure you that our Board members are each tasked with plenty in both responsibility and management role. I am so thankful for each of them and their hearts to serve even when the going gets tough. Please take a moment to look at the names of our Board listed in the newsletter and lift each of us up Emmaus-style: "God Bless (Name)!"

As I sum things up, I will reflect on a quote by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Please *KNOW* that we, NCEC, are indeed and In Deed that small committed group! Our Emmaus cross is inscribed, "Christ is counting on You." Our Emmaus Canon states the words "It's not about me!" May we each meditate on these words in the upcoming days, events and beyond... It's not about any one individual. It's about glorifying God, training leaders, and making disciples. As individuals and as a community, may He always be glorified by all that we do.

In Humble Gratitude,

Tina L. Cook

NCEC Community Lay Director 256-998-2043



#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

#### Nowhere to Turn.

Have you ever been in the type of situation where you feel as if you have nowhere to turn? Maybe it's a problem at work, at home, or in

the church and there seems to be no one that can help, or maybe it's a problem with temptation. I have been there for weeks now. I feel as if every time I go to town Satan is attacking me, almost as soon as I get out of my car and I can't stop it. I can't just stick my head in the sand and pretend it will all go away. I can't just let things pass and not take care of getting the things that I need or my family needs.

I must face these situations and I cannot let them block me in, even though I feel I have nowhere to turn. So, what do I do? The only thing I can do, I get out of my car and in the power of the Holy Spirit, I walk past the temptation that is yelling at me, "GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!!"

I could eat boxes upon boxes of those delicious little cookies, and I know that the enemy knows my weakness for those amazing tagalongs, or the thin mints, or even better, the coconut samoas. Now, that may sound a little ridiculous and over exaggerated, but there are many times the situations we are in are so strong that we do feel trapped with nowhere to turn, but we have hope. Hope in our Lord that He will be with us, no matter where we go. He promised to send us a helper, and it may be to help us pass the cookie stand, or to know what to say to 'that' person we must face. No matter the situation we find ourselves in, I want to leave with a verse that helps me to remember that the world will never be able to trap me. It is Psalm 18:29, "With Your help I can run through a barricade; with my God I can scale a wall." The world may say we have nowhere to turn, but God says, "stick with Me, we'll go through it or over it." Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus; He is the author and perfector of our faith.

DeColores, Daryl Randolph Community Spiritual Director



Scan. Pay. Go.

Now there is a safe and secure way to make donations and pay Pilgrim fees to the New Covenant Emmaus Community. The link is available on the NCEC website, by scanning our QR code on your mobile PayPal app, or simply go to PayPal and send money to **ncectreasurer@gmail.com** 



Our community wants to stay in contact with our members. If you are a new member of our community or if you are a member who has NOT been receiving emails regarding gatherings and other NCEC news, please send your name and email address to: webservant@newcovenantemmaus.com

# **Upcoming Events**



Men's Walk #106 April 13-16, 2023 Ron Sell, Lay Director

Women's Walk #107 April 20-23, 2023 Eva Bolden, Lay Director

Kairos – Decatur Work Release April 27-30, 2023

# Walk Gathering Follow-up Date

April 28, 2023 Food/Fellowship: 6:30pm Worship: 7:29pm Friendship Church Athens, AL

## Girls Chrysalis Flight # 56 May 26-28, 2023 Melissa Kowerduck-Robinson LD Sydney Lindsay – Peer Leader

Face-to-Face Encounter #8 June 12, 13, 15, 16 Cindy Haney, Lay Director



# UPDATES FROM UPCOMING WALKS/FLIGHTS/ENCOUNTERS/KAIROS

#### Men's Walk #106 - Lay Director

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight" – Proverbs 3:5-6. Men's Walk #106 is just around the corner and will be held at Camp Crystal Springs on April 13-16, 2023! Over the past six months, I have had to trust in Him to build the team that He had already planned. Along the way, there were many ups and downs, and likely a few still to come. However, I am in awe of the blessings He has already poured over this team. The team is complete and we will finish our training this Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Walk also has 19 confirmed pilgrims with a few additional applications in the submittal process – another blessing! Likewise, it would be a blessing to have you, the community, at the send-off, candlelight, and closing! Please plan to join us on this 4-day journey.

Your Humble Servant,

Ron Sell, Lay Director Walk #106

#### Women's Walk #105 - Lay Director

When Jeff Reynolds called me, and asked me to prayerfully consider serving on Walk 107 as the Lay Director, I was immediately filled with joy and fear. I had no idea how I was going to be able to serve, because of my overloaded work schedule. In my studies I found this prayer by Ellen G. White

"If we find time to pray, God will find the time to answer. Every earnest petition for grace and strength will be answered....Ask God to do for you those things that you cannot do for yourselves."

In faith I called Jeff and said YES, I will serve. I still had no idea how I was going to be able to serve. But God had a plan and the walk was moved to the spring where I could serve. God answer my prayers. If we find time to pray, God will find the time to answer.

God will be to us everything we will let Him be.

De Colores and blessings to you all, *Eva Bolden*, Lay Director Walk #107



#### FACE TO FACE: An Experience in the Emmaus Tradition

*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 four or 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.

#### Thoughts from the Face-to-Face Lay Director

When I answered the phone and the sweet voice on the other end asked me if I would consider leading Face to Face Encounter #8, I immediately said "yes". There was no hesitancy or need to fast and pray before committing to this. I knew with everything in me that this was what I was being called to do. Several years ago, I had to decline when asked the same question, and I know without a doubt that this is God's timing, not mine. God's timing is always perfect!

Face to Face is dear to me. Throughout the years, I considered dear friends for an Emmaus walk but knew they couldn't withstand the rigors of a three-day weekend. These Encounters make what has been precious to those of us in the community available to those who might never have had this opportunity. Look around you and consider who you are being led to offer this gift to. It is open not only to those of us "of a certain age", but also to people who have a physical impairment that would make a typical walk impossible and to those who attended a walk many years ago and need a fresh Encounter with the Lord. Is God calling you to say "YES" to invite and sponsor someone on Face to Face Encounter #8?

De Colores!

Cindy Haney

Lay Director Encounter #8



### Chrysalis: Spiritual Renewal and Formation For Grades 8 to 12

**Chrysalis** is designed specifically for youth. New Covenant Chrysalis community accepts applications from anyone Grades 8-12. At this age, young people are making major decisions about religion, lifestyle, vocation, and lifelong relationships. Chrysalis challenges them to grow not only in mind and body but also in spirit and faith.

The **Chrysalis** weekend events, referred to as *Flights*, are offered separately for girls and boys to allow youth freedom to explore their relationship with God without worrying about how they may appear to the other gender. It provides an opportunity outside their local congregations or youth groups to grow in their faith alongside their peers.

#### Thoughts from the Chrysalis Flight #56 Lay Director

Girls Flight #56 is May 27-29! This flight is being led by Melissa Kowerduck and Sydney Lindsey. Chrysalis is a three-day time of spiritual renewal and formation that allows youth to grow in their relationship with Christ. Chrysalis Flights are designed for students in 8th-12th grade. Teenagers are at a pivotal stage in life where they are learning who they are and who they want to be. Chrysalis is specifically designed to make exploring a deep relationship with Christ more accessible and challenges participants to look deeply at themselves and grow spiritually and emotionally. Please consider sponsoring any young people you may know. The application can be found at <u>ncchrysalis.org</u>.



## **Kairos Prison Ministry**

Kairos is an opportunity for prisoners to learn that they are worthy of God's love, light, and grace. It's a time to assure them that no matter who they are or what they have done, God forgives them.

When a former negative or gang leader accepts Christ, it can influence the very atmosphere of a prison for the better. As the Kairos Christian community inside a prison grows and begins to gain influence, the incidence of violence often decreases. The next generation experiences a change in their released family member, who begins to model a lifestyle without crime. New, positive behavior is reinforced. The local communities become safer, as parolees and former prisoners make positive life choices from the foundation of ongoing Christian "Prayer and Share" meetings. Families are reunited with more hope for the future.

#### Upcoming Kairos Weekend: April 27-30

Kairos is going into North Alabama Community Work Center (previously called Decatur Work Release) April 27 - 30, 2023. Please pray for the Inmates and the Team.A team of 30 men are going in this prison to Minister to 24 Inmates for 35 total hours.

Limestone Correction Facility has recently allowed visitation starting in March of 2023 after being locked down from Covid and Administrative issues since 2019. Therefore, Kairos will be planning to enter Limestone Correction Facility in the near future.

Tutwiler Women's Prison is still locked down with no movement toward allowing volunteers or visitation.

This is the latest from Kairos if anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact: Jesus Lopez (jesusmlopez22@yahoo.com).

De Colores,

Jesus Lopez

Kairos Liaison



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

Please be sure you have filled out a volunteer form! We would LOVE for you to serve on up coming Walk, Flight or Encounter!!

Visit our website to fill out a form. <u>www.newcovenantemmaus.com</u> (Forms are located under the VOLUNTEER tab.)



#### **NCEC Database IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT?** MINISTRY MANAGER IS THE DATABASE FOR NCEC!

Below are simple steps to use Ministry Manager. .

- Go to: https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org/
- Sign Up by: creating your account using your email and a password.
- Log In

Your options are on your home page. Below is information on these options.

#### HOME MEMBERS COMMUNITIES CHURCHES EVENTS

#### HOME PAGE:

- Welcome <u>your name</u>
- <u>Calendar of NCEC events</u>
- <u>Scroll down to find a place to sign up for prayer vigils</u> **MEMBERS:**
- Type in **your name** in the "existing member" and hit search. (You may have to scroll down a little to see the search results)
- Click on your name to go to your profile. Scroll down this page to check if your personal information is correct. Add a profile picture.
- Your profile page has a slide bar with the following items to check on. <u>Profile, Background Check,</u> <u>Communities, Church, Events, Sponsor, Emergency Contact, Notes, My prayer times, Email</u> <u>preference and Activities.</u>
- Existing members is where you search for all Community members.
- NOTE: The phone number of 555-555-5555 has been placed in <u>all vacant</u> phone number by UR. ALL blanks must be filled for the database to work. If wrong, correct your personal phone number, please. This is the number that you want to be contacted to work on walks. It can be your cell phone for all three blanks.
- **NOTE:** If the database administrator did not have your birthdate, one was entered for you. You may correct it if you desire.

#### COMMUNITY:

- 1. Scroll down, click on New Covenant Emmaus
- 2. Scroll down to find a slide bar for information.
- 3. Click on walks, here you will find the team list for NCEC walks.

4. There is also a **prayer vigil** button on this page as well. Feel free to sign up for each walk. **TIPS:** 

1. Always scroll down on the pages of this database. Most of the time the information that you need will be in the middle of the page.

2. Use the slide bars for more information.

- 3. Your experience is listed on the slide bar on your profile page under activities and events.
- 4. If you cannot correct your information yourself, please email Kay Hannah at

<u>grannyk721@gmail.com</u>. She can help you or input your data for you. If you are from another community and are working a NCEC walk, we will need your information to be entered into this database.

5. Print this page and place by your computer.

#### 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.

To sponsor someone for a walk, flight, or encounter, look under the **SPONSORSHIP** tab on our community website: <u>www.newcovenantemmaus.com</u>

Remember, we have limited sponsorships available. Pilgrims are allowed to pay their own fees if they are able to do so. You also can pay Pilgrim's fees as a gift of Agape if you are able to do so.

# **Fortifying Fourth Days**

#### Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Matthew 18:20

How are your fourth days? We know the scripture from Luke Chapter 24, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?" Is your heart still burning?

Are you still on fire for Jesus, or have you allowed the distractions of life to cool that desire to worship and to serve? The Emmaus Community is a precious gift to us-an instrument through which our Lord can and will work to renew his church. God still has so much in store for us!

Please consider volunteering to serve on an upcoming New Covenant Emmaus Community event! (Walk to Emmaus, Face-to-Face, Kairos, or Chrysalis) Christ is counting on you, and there are so many ways to use your talents to serve. Are you active in a Reunion Group or another accountability group? Please don't miss out on the blessing they provide. These are small groups of Christian friends who meet to discuss piety, study, and action. They often offer food and fellowship with Jesus in the midst following the Emmaus tradition. Members of the group challenge one another in their discipleship. I strongly encourage you to find or create a Reunion Group. The group card that everyone receives at the close of the Walk indicates the order of the meeting and provides you with additional information.

Last, but certainly not least, please remain connected to your Emmaus friends and family by attending our monthly gathering! The community gathering is a monthly reunion of the Emmaus community held on the third Friday night of each month.

Here is our current list of reunion groups. These can also be found on the New Covenant Emmaus Website. <u>www.newcovenantemmaus.com</u>

NAME	POC	Phone Number	Email Address	Location
AHA Sisterhood	Robbie Walls	256-656-4949	Robbielynn153@yahoo.com	South HSV
Candle Glow	Sheri Richardson	256-777-5872	sheridr10@gmail.com	Harvest
D by J	Sharon Keffer	256-656-4522	pastorsharonkeffer@gmail.com	Virtual
Expresso Yourself	Debra Synder Mary Patterson	256-558-7278	Patt4us@yahoo.com	Grant
Fourth Day Way	Doug Kirk	256-541-7470	Dougkirk10@mail.com	Grant
Full Circle	Bruce Parris	256-325-6082	Bruce.gamon@yahoo.com	Virtual
G – Girls	Connie Watkins	256-679-6727	connieraewatkins@gmail.com	Harvest
Journey With Jesus –	Beverly Heddens Kim Langford			Madison
JOY	Annette Strickland	256-233-3601	Annette.strickland0@gmail.com	Athens
Lunch in the Park	Jack Lawrence	256-830-6830	jkpmlawrence@bellsouth.net	Huntsville
Out of the Wilderness	Tina Cook Rhae Brock	256-998-2043 256-431-5476	transformed2011@outlook.com rhaebrock@gmail.com	Athens
Ragamuffins	Kay Dotson	931-242-1957	kdotson@gmail.com	Loretto, TN
Redeemed	Robbi Montgomery	256-682-1478	Rmontgomery331@gmail.com	Hazel Green
Renaissance	Keith Lewis	256-762-9050	Keithdlewis2384@yahoo.com	Florence
Resurrection Rejoicing	Teresa Martin	256-498-3162		Somerville
Running the Show	Steve Williams	256-206-5416		Athens
Sassy Sisters	Debbie Reese	256-599-8887	Rareese2000@yahoo.com	Langston, AL
See You at the Crossroads	Cody Gilliam		Revbgilliam85@gmail.com	Owens Crossroads
Sheltering Trees	Sherrie Grose	256-559-9095		Rogersville
Soaring Sisters	Kimberly Henderson	256-710-9736	timberlandranch@gmail.com	Athens

Son Shine	JoAnn Clem	256-682-2446	joannfclem@att.net	Huntsville
SOS – Sisters of Serenity	Vicki McCurry	256-603-4001	vickimccurry@gmail.com	Huntsville
Thursday Men's Group	Harry Richardson			Harvest
Tuesday Men's Group	John Beatty	256-729-1311	Johnbeaty55@gmail.com	Athens
Unnamed	Wes Chiles	931-607-7514		Pulaski, TN
We are Family	Cindy Glover	931-363-3233	Cindyglover@gmail.com	Pulaski, TN
We are HIS (WAH)	Eva Bolden	256-655-5343	boldenjeb@yahoo.com	Ardmore
Women of Grace	Jeana Kowerduck			Huntsville
You Get a Line and I'll Get a Pole	Kelly Watts	256-652-6734	kellyduffie@aol.com	Ardmore
Zero Dark Thirty	Gary Liederbach	256-302-3785		Huntsville



## 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!

Here are some tips to help you focus your prayers during your commitment time. Use this as a guide but let the Holy Spirit lead you are you pray! 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 to.

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, Conference Room, Agape, Worship, Events, 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 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.



#### THE NEW COVENANT BOARD WORKING FOR YOU!

If you're like me and have been in the community for several years, I have at

times wondered "who are the Board Members? We know there is a Board but who are they? And what do they even do?

When I became NCEC's Community trainer last year, I went though many weeks of training. Afterwards, I brought to the Board's attention how the Upper Room training material stated the Board should prepare for walks.

I am writing this article to inform the Community of these changes. I think sometimes if we don't know the benefit of a change we don't respond in a positive way.

The New Covenant Emmaus Board strived last year to assign board duties according to the Upper Room manual. This plan makes the Board Members much more visible and significant to the walk teams.Each board member is assigned a support team committee. Each board member is responsible to select members for their walk committee, call them to serve, then support them by being at one of their training sessions and checking on them one of the days of the walk.

This enhances the relationship of the team to the board. The Board member is involved and observing who should chair his/her committee next, who has served many support team positions, and when appropriate, recommend them to the Team Selection Committee for the conference room.

The Board is in charge of ensuring progressive servanthood in the support team. To bring in new team members and to progress experienced workers forward. So I ask you to pray for the Board and encourage them!

Covid set the Community back in many ways. Please KNOW your NCEC Board of Directors meet monthly and strive to watch over the well-being of our Community. Change seems to be hard for most people, so I ask that you support your board members and thank them for their service. It takes time to make changes, so be considerate please. They are a working board and work all year for our Community, not just at walk times.

May "I" and YOU always remember the reason "WHY" of Emmaus. To develop leadership and strengthen the local church. As we see these changes taking place may we trust and walk in fellowship with LOVE for one another.

Looking forward to seeing you at Community Events!

Annette Strickland Community Trainer and NCEC Documents

