

New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



NEW COVENANT NOTES

Fall, 2024

Monthly Gatherings

LOCATION:

Friendship Church
16479 Lucas Ferry Rd
Athens, AL 35611

WHEN:

3rd Friday of Every Month

TIME:

6:30pm—Food/Fellowship

7:29pm—Worship

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NCEC Board of Directors

Sonya Shook, Community Lay Director, 2024

Daryl Randolph, Community Spiritual Director, 2024

Jesus Lopez, 2023

Connie Watkins, 2023

Bob Druzynski, 2024

Lorie Vital, 2024

Kelly Watts, 2024

Thomas Kingery, 2025

Jamie Polk, 2025

Carol Newsome, 2025

Kathleen Phraner, 2025

Carol Goforth, 2025



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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

DeColores! I am Sonya Shook, I went on Walk # 93, I sat at the table of Sarah, and I

worship at Randall's Chapel Global Methodist Church. I am blessed and honored to be serving as your Community Lay Director. At the July Gathering each year, the Community Lay Director gives the State of the Community. That Gathering was canceled due to inclement weather, so I thought I would take this opportunity to share that information with you. First of all, I would like to recognize the Board of Directors Class of 2023, Jesus Lopez and Connie Watkins. Thank you both for your faithful service to our community, and thank you for the spirit of cooperation and charity with which you served. It has been an honor to serve with you both. I would also like to recognize the new nominees to the Board of Directors for New Covenant Emmaus Community Class of 2026: Conrad Bonner, Krishna Gehrs, Julie Melton, and Kathy Patrick. I would love to extend an enthusiastic welcome and say thank you for counting the cost and saying "yes" to serve. I ask that the community pray for them as they adjust to their new role, there is much to learn!

In 1994, the first Board of Directors for our community was elected, and Bob Potter served as our first Community Lay Director. We've come a long way baby!! Next year, New Covenant will celebrate 30 years of strengthening our local churches! That's something to celebrate, and as we look forward to the future, take a moment to reflect on the blessing of 29 years, and be thankful.....29 years of serving as the hands and feet of Christ. 29 years of community, 29 years of family, 29 years of love. We can't count our blessings, but our community has over 3,900 members. God is SO good to us!! We had 42 pilgrims attend walks last fall, and 47 pilgrims attend this spring. We had 12 participants last fall, and 18 this spring on Chrysalis flights. We also had 34 pilgrims on two Face to Face Encounters. The body of Christ is alive and well, and our community is growing!

Our community is also financially secure. Our operating balance is \$14,400.50. Included in this is \$1,000.00 in our Scholarship Fund and \$1,000.00 in our Galatians Fund. The Scholarship Fund is used to provide financial assistance to pilgrims who otherwise would not be able to go on a walk. The Galatians Fund is used to give financial assistance to needy members of our community. In February, we received a donation of \$1263.85 for scholarships in honor of Billy Caldwell. In May, New Life blessed us with a donation of \$2200.00.

We held our annual Training Event in February of 2023 at Toney Methodist Church. It was a well-attended success. Planning for our next Community Training Event begins in October. Please watch for announcements and plan to attend to learn about all the different teams it takes to put a walk together and bless future pilgrims. We are approaching 2024 with a joyful anticipation of our upcoming flights, walks, encounters, and Kairos. This community continues to grow through the spirit of cooperation and charity in God's Will and for His Glory!

This growth was challenged during the pandemic. Restarting and rebuilding our community post Covid has been hard. We have faced difficulty, and we have persevered. What we once considered normal has changed drastically. We thank God for the faithful hearts that have persevered, listened to God's voice, and answered the call to serve. Our Emmaus community has had to, once again, face adversity. In 1st Corinthians Chapter 3, Paul tells us that I planted the seed, and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. The man who plants and the one who waters has one purpose, just as You and I have a purpose. As co-laborers, our ultimate goal is to glorify God. We are all working together to honor God and point others to Christ. Let's work together in whatever capacity God has assigned us. I've got your back, and you've got mine. We are one body. So, are you planting, or are you watering?

Christ is counting on you.

Sonya Shook, Community Lay Director

Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm gonna make it through

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR
COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL
DIRECTOR**

That is the bridge of the song “Firm Foundation (He Won’t)” by Cody Carnes, and it has been a favorite of mine for a while now, but this past week it hit home in a new way. You see this past week our area was hit by one of the many storms that have been blowing through our community. It was so crazy because a little before 2:30 pm I noticed that the trees were really starting to move outside and then all of a sudden, our power went out. My first thought was that I wasn’t going to get to do much more work since I need power and internet, so let’s walk outside and see what is happening. I stepped out onto our front porch right as the storm was really starting to come through and I saw large limbs down in the front yard, but then I heard a noise in the back. With the rain coming down like it was I decided to go in and look out a back window only to find a tree had fallen, but it was at the edge of the woods, and I wasn’t too worried. I then heard Miranda say a tree was down and I started to say, yes I just saw it, but everything is ok, until I realized she was looking out the front door. In the matter of just a few seconds a tree in front of our house had fallen and was blocking our driveway and went across the road. We were okay, no damage to property and God gave us an opportunity to minister to our neighbors and build those relationships because of this event. I share that, not to say that because of my relationship with God I knew nothing would happen to our home, but to say that because of my relationship with God I had no reason to fear. Could a tree have fallen and hit our home? Yes it could, and if you’ve ever seen my yard, one day one might. That isn’t the point in the song, our physical homes are not what is built on Christ, it is our relationship with Him that is built on the rock. Unfortunately, there will be storms in our life, some because of the weather and others because of circumstances, but we have One that will always be

there with us because our lives are built on Him. So, no matter the storm we can boldly proclaim that I'm safe with You, I'm gonna make it through.

DeColores,

Daryl Randolph

Community Spiritual Director

Upcoming Events

**Chrysalis Boy's Flight #57
September 2-3, 2023**

**Men's Walk #108
September 7-10, 2023**

**Women's Walk #109
September 14-17, 2023**

**Kairos:
Tutwiler Women's Prison, September 21-24
Decatur Work Release, October 26-29**

**WALK FOLLOW UP DATES:
September 22, 2023
Friendship Church, Athens, AL
Food/Fellowship 6:30 pm
Worship 7:29 pm**



Kairos is starting Training for Tutwiler Women's Prison 15 July, 2023; this is the first time in 3 years that Tutwiler is letting Kairos Teams to enter the Prison. The training dates are: July 15, August 5, August 9, September 9.

The Weekend is September 21-24 and Ruth Smith is the Leader of this Weekend!

Kairos Weekend at Decatur Work Release, (North Alabama Work Center), is Oct 26-29, training starts Aug 24. Chris Rogers is the Leader of this weekend.

Kairos is going into Limestone Correctional Facility once a month for Reunions only.

Anyone interested in participating please contact Jesus Lopez (jesusmlopez22@yahoo.com) or Text 603-714-9664.



Have You Heard About New Covenant Chrysalis?

Chrysalis is designed for youth in grades 8 thru 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.

The New Covenant Community has been blessed to include the Chrysalis experience for youth in our area for over 25 years.

Upcoming flights are:

Flight #57 (boys) at Crystal Springs Camp on Sept 2-4, 2023
(Labor Day Wknd)

Flight #58 (girls) at Crystal Springs Camp on May 25-27, 2024
(Memorial Day Wknd)

If you would like to sponsor a youth, or serve on a team, please contact the Chrysalis Registrar:

Chrysalis@hiwaay.net

Men's Walk #108 - Lay Director

“If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5



This verse has been instrumental to me as we have been working hard to fill the team and begin our training. I am so excited to see what God does on this walk through the TEAM and through the PILGRIMS. The time of preparation has been such a blessing. I am watching God grow me to become more fully dependent on Him! I covet your prayers! I am so blessed to see how the Lord has been working, weaving HIS team together! The team is full and training has begun! Please pray for the PILGRIMS that God would have attend this walk, and please SPONSOR!! We would LOVE to see you, the community, bless these pilgrims at send-off, candlelight and closing.

De Colores!
Kenny Newsome
Lay Director, Walk #108

Women's Walk #109 - Lay Director

Greetings! Wow! Time sure flies over 14 months, especially when preparing for an upcoming Emmaus Walk. What an honor to get to serve as the Lay Director for the NCEC Women's Walk #109. This has truly been a year of learning to trust even more as we have prayed, met for team selection, prayed some more, called servants for this walk, prayed some more, met for core team training, and still praying and Saturday August 19, we will begin team trainings and we will keep praying. Prayer is the foundation for each of these Walks that we will all serve with a spirit of humility as the hands and feet of God. Words cannot express the affect that the Walk to Emmaus family of communities has had on me and my entire family. This journey, now even more so in the 4th days, has impacted me in such a way to learn to serve wherever needed, to trust in purpose of teams, to trust the God has me planted in my local church to be a servant leader and then to give me a family much larger to walk alongside me. What a beautiful blessing and picture God has made through 3-day events and through the NCEC community. So, I am very excited to enter these next days of meeting together with the team. So NCEC community, it is time for you to engage in Walks 108 and 109 if not already. Your prayers are coveted and needed and we need you to SPONSOR! Go to the LORD and ask Him to bring just 1 name to your mind. If He does be obedient and get them a sponsor form. If not, then pray for the men and women who will be walking as pilgrims in September! Psalm 81:16 tells us "But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you." And He has satisfied me and provided throughout this year a sweetness that only He can give. May you experience that same sweetness!

Decolores!

Betsye Spencer

NCEC Weekend #109 Lay Director



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.

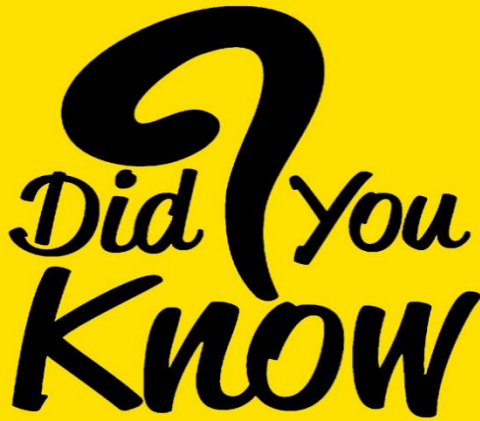
This program is for persons 60 and older who have never been on a Walk to Emmaus. It was developed for this age group because their health risks and energy levels require a longer schedule with shorter sessions. It is tailored to meet senior men and women on their terms. Men and women will be together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

Our next Face to Face Encounter will be in the summer of 2024 in the Scottsboro area!!

We  **Volunteers**

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

Visit our website to fill out a form. www.newcovenantemmaus.com



Did You
Know

The Candlestick Blessing! Jack Lawrence

If you have ever had the opportunity to attend a Candlelight in another Emmaus community, you might have noticed two things. First, it was different from what we are used to

at New Covenant. Some are held in large auditoriums, some in grand church sanctuaries, some overlooking mountains or lakes, some even sing a different song for the pilgrims, but every one is wonderfully beautiful, even heart stopping! Couldn't be otherwise with the presence of so much agape love. And second, you might have noticed something different about the candles – there were no candlesticks! The wooden candlesticks with glass holders that are held for each pilgrim and later presented to them after the walk are unique to New Covenant. Often they are brightly decorated, with walk number and date added. This tradition began on New Covenant Walks #1 and #2, held at Martin Methodist College in 1995. The candlesticks and glass votive candle holders were found in Boaz (which used to be the outlet capital of the south!), where we continued to purchase the items until that store went out of business. Since then, a number of sources have been used and the design sometimes changed slightly. But what has never changed is the blessing of a sponsor being able to share with his or her pilgrim how “I prayed for you, and sang for you, and held this candle especially for you at your Candlelight.” I can't imagine a better way to remember that special night.



Why Do We Always Begin Worship at 7:29 PM?

Jack Lawrence

The meeting time and date for the monthly gatherings was decided in early 1994 at the very first meeting of the Steering Committee for the proposed new Walk To Emmaus community, soon to be officially named the “New Covenant Emmaus Community”. The committee was made up of a handful of volunteers with experience in either the Nashville or Alabama Emmaus communities, and we met in Pulaski, Tennessee. Keeping in mind that in those days there was no electronic means (email, Facebook, etc.) to gain and maintain contact with members of the community, communication depended on occasional “snail-mail” newsletters. Knowing that it was important to minimize any changes, the committee made some concrete decisions (after much discussion!) about location and date/time for monthly Gatherings. For the first dozen years or so our Gatherings were held at St Andrew’s Memorial UMC in Pulaski, and always on the third Friday evening of the month, worship to begin promptly at 7:29 PM. Credit goes to the wisdom of committee member Rev Russ Cain (our first Community Spiritual Director), who pointed out that making it an unusual time would keep folks from forgetting when to show up. Arriving earlier to fellowship and share dinner or snacks was always an option, but at 7:29 we stopped what we were doing and began to worship! So for the next 29 years we have continued to center our focus on Jesus when the clock is one tick shy of 7:30. Pretty good tradition, huh?



TRAINING

By Kelly Watts:

Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle. Psalm 144:1

We got a couple of Spoo puppies this year (standard poodle). Roscoe and Ruby are five months old. They are strong, energetic and very loving. They think their time is best spent hunting fresh duck eggs in the woods and eating everything a goat might eat, as well as meeting delivery trucks at a full run in the driveway. We have different plans for them. Training is constant and sometimes frustrating for them and for us. We don't train them so that they can't experience and enjoy life. We train them so that they can make the best use of the opportunities they have and to protect both them and our home. When they are better trained, they will be able to run and experience good things more fully.

Training for walks and jobs in our community is very similar. We have goals as a community and guidelines that we follow that are written both by our board leadership and by the mothership that is Upper Room. We all come into working walks with excitement and ideas we wanna try. The meetings are so important because it's here that we can bond as a team, plan for those ideas and guidelines and be ready for whatever warfare Satan may throw at us as a walk team.

As your team training coordinator, I serve the walks by recruiting experienced trainers for teams and helping when you feel your team is ill equipped in some way. Please reach out before you go to camp if this ever happens. My hope is that as you attend team training for walks and the yearly event that you will be equipped and informed so that you may support the pilgrims and the community more fully. I pray that you find your time of training and of serving to be full of the colors of God's love and community fellowship...and, of course, good Emmaus food ;)



Sponsorship is the first act of Agape for the pilgrims. Have you considered sponsoring a pilgrim for any of the upcoming walks, flights or encounters?

According to the dictionary, a sponsor is one who takes responsibility for another. Sponsorship requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning and follow through. Wise, intentional sponsorship is the

foundation for building renewal in the church. Who has God placed on your heart to sponsor? Christ is counting on you!!



**WE ARE MOVING OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY
PICNIC TO OCTOBER!
PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US!**

WHEN: OCTOBER 20, 2023

WHERE: FRIENDSHIP CHURCH 6:30 PM

The entire evening will be held in the gymnasium. Join us for burgers/dogs, camp-style entertainment, fun and fellowship, laughter and singing, worship and communion! We can't wait to celebrate all the Lord has done in our community this year!!

Stay tuned for more details coming SOON!

REUNION

revisit. reunite. relive.

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

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
Espresso Yourself	Debra Synder Mary Patterson	256-558-7278	Patt4us@yahoo.com	Grant
Fourth Day Way	Doug Kirk	256-541-7470	Dougekirk10@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	Keithdewis2384@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	Johnbeatty55@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 Kowrduck			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

