

New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



NEW COVENANT NOTES

FALL 2019

Inside This Issue

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

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!

I can't believe how fast this year is going by. We have already completed two successful walks with a total of 53 pilgrims and 2 Encounters with a total of 36 pilgrims. Coming up in September we will host our 100th and 101st Walk!! How rewarding it is to see the changes in the lives of those servants of God.

The election for the Board of Directors is over. For the class of 2021 the Community has elected Miranda Green. Elected to the class of 2022 are Billy Caldwell, Robbi Montgomery, Sheri Richardson, Jeff Reynolds and Scott Kowderduck (clergy). Welcome Aboard! As I welcome the new members, I would also like to say thank you to the board members rotating off the board at the end of the year. So much of what the board does is out of sight of the community, yet vital to our mission of renewing the church through the Walk to Emmaus. Thank you Janet Vader, Joe Dugan, Chuck Polk, and Carol Goforth. You all have done a remarkable job, always saying yes and serving with a smile!

Recently I heard a sermon on humility. The evangelist made the statement "the servant is lost in the service". Isn't that what serving in Emmaus is all about? The Emmaus Canon begins with the words "it's not about me!" It's not about any one individual, it's about glorifying God, training leaders and making disciples. As individuals and as a community, in all that we do, may He always be glorified.

DeColores

Robbie Walls

Community Lay Director



Spiritual Director's Corner

Grace is Fresh Peaches!

Several years ago I attended a clergy conference in St. Louis, Missouri, and heard one of the speakers, a Salvation Army officer, share this unforgettable story. Officer Christine was returning to the Salvation Army facility one evening when she encountered Rosie, a homeless lady who came regularly to the shelter for meals and then would disappear for days on drinking binges. On this particular evening, Rosie called out from the curb where she was sitting and asked Officer Christine for something to eat. She declared that she didn't want the standard peanut butter and jelly sandwich that was usually on hand and asked if she could have some fresh peaches. Trying to find peaches for Rosie at that time of the night in that particular neighborhood was not the most convenient or reasonable thing to do. Nevertheless, for some reason, the weary officer felt compelled to go to a grocery store and find some peaches for Rosie. When she returned with a couple of the best peaches she could find, she handed them to Rosie who immediately sank her teeth into one of them. Her eyes were shining as the juice ran down her chin, and she disappeared into the night with her golden treasures in hand. The next day Officer Christine found a piece of paper stuck between the shelter door and its frame. A rough sketch on the paper revealed a picture of a peach and a smiling face with peach juice dripping down the chin, and it was signed by Rosie. Officer Christine pointed out that the grace of God is a lot like fresh peaches.

What a powerful picture of grace! Perhaps this story touches your heart too. When we should settle for peanut butter and jelly, God's extravagant love offers us peaches. If we are honest, there's probably enough of the "elder brother" in all of us that we question the extravagance of fresh peaches (see Luke 15:11-32). After all, peanut butter and jelly is more than an adequate answer to hunger. Perhaps we might even go so far as to say that bread and water or a stout cup of black coffee is really what a messed up drunk such as Rosie deserves. When we get right down to it, maybe we feel that because of our sins and shortfalls, bread and water are all we should be given too.

Yet, the Grace of God is offered like fresh peaches. It's extravagant, abundant, overflowing and lavish. It's undeserved, illogical and unexplainable. The Apostle Paul writes, "In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us" (Ephesians 1:7-8). When we deserved to be exiled for our sins, God through Christ's sacrifice made a place for us at His table of grace! I recently saw this quote on Pinterest, "In Christ, you are a recipient of extravagant Grace!" Sink your teeth into that and let the juice run down your chin!

Taking His Yoke,
Sharon Keffer
NCEC 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?”*

Men’s Walk #100 – Lay Director

My name is Keith Lewis. I was a pilgrim on New Covenant Emmaus Community Walk 70. I sat at the table of John. I worship with the Creekside Church in Florence, AL.

I have been blessed to be in several servant roles for the past 7 years on subsequent walks, and it has been an incredible journey. I have enjoyed being in the background for most of those walks. It seems I have been blessed to be called to serve as the lay director for Walk 100. I'm not altogether sure that one can be fully ready for what all that entails, but I am thankful for the opportunity to serve on Walk 100.

That NCEC is breaking into 3 digits in Walk numbers speaks volumes about the importance of the Emmaus Community and the influence the community has had on thousands of pilgrims.

My prayers for Walk 100 are that these pilgrims will leave with a better understanding of God's grace and love. I pray that they will go back to their home congregations and be better leaders and servants. And I pray that they will become better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers.

Satan has been working overtime for the past several months in order to disrupt the walk, and he's not through planning disruptions and sowing seeds of doubt. But I know that God has this Walk in His hands. God will be glorified. I am anxious to see what God has in store.

De Colores!

Keith Lewis



DeColores

Women's Walk #101 – Lay Director

Hello Everyone!

The meetings for walk 101 are coming along with some very good talk previews so far. I know God is going to work in a mighty way on the weekend. The team has come together and as of Aug 27th we had 32 pilgrims.

Thanks to everybody who has been associated with the walk, team members, sponsors and all who have been praying.

Hope everyone has a blessed walk!

Belinda Kirk

Women's Walk #101 – Spiritual Director

Matthew 11:28-30. "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."

This reading can be quite stunning the first time we hear it from the Message. That familiar "Take my yoke upon you" passage just doesn't sound the same, but it is. Seems like the old saying "don't get the cart before the horse" applies here. If we are trying to make things happen by ourselves we are trying to push the cart. We will not make much progress and we will be worn out, burned out. We know these Emmaus walks work because the Holy Spirit is leading, pulling the cart. We follow and as a result we can learn the unforced rhythms of grace. What a promise. Let's let Him have it, and the pilgrims will receive what God has for them and we will be blessed, but most important, God will be glorified.

De Colores

Tim Buchanan



Fall 2019 Walk Schedule

Men's Walk #100 – September 5th-8th

Women's Walk # 101 – September 12th-15th

Face to Face Encounter # 6

March 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th

Follow Up Gathering for Walks #100 & #101

September 20, 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

[Click here to open Face to Face Application](#)



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:

[Click Here to open the Volunteer Form](#)

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

Aloha from the Chrysalis front! I just want to catch you up on our happenings as of late. Today is Labor Day and we have 18 beautiful butterflies ready to take flight!

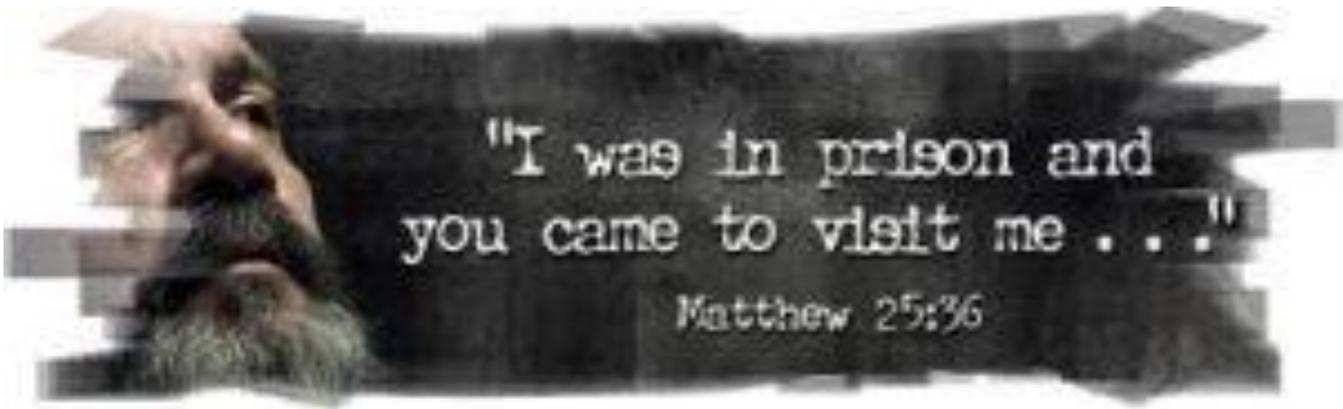
We will have a RuSH on SEPTEMBER 14, 2019, at Asbury church of Harvest from 3-5 pm. This is the Saturday of the women's walk so we can all go to candlelight afterwards. This is a great opportunity to bring someone who has never been on a flight that you might be talking to about sponsoring.

Don't forget NCC will pay for youth leaders/directors/ or Pastors to go on a NCEC walk minus the deposit.

Our next Flight will be Boy's Flight 51 on May 23-25, 2020. Led by Holy Spirit and Ralph Weaver. The next Girl's Flight 52 will be Aug 29-Sept 1, 2020. It is NEVER TOO EARLY to send in those applications.

You may be wondering "What is Chrysalis?" Or possibly "I wish our youth leaders knew about Chrysalis." Well, we can help with that. We are planning a Dinner and a show for Youth leaders, pastors, and directors for January/February time frame. If you or you have someone you would like to know about it then please email me at wavwachr@yahoo.com Or call or text me st 256-590-6995. We are also glad to come to your church or event and share as well.

FLY WITH CHRIST!
Missy Weaver



God's Special Time

I was in prison...and you visited me.

Matthew 25:36

Kairos Prison Ministry, sometimes referred to as “Emmaus In Prison”, is active in our community at Limestone Correctional Facility and NACWC (Decatur Work Release), 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.

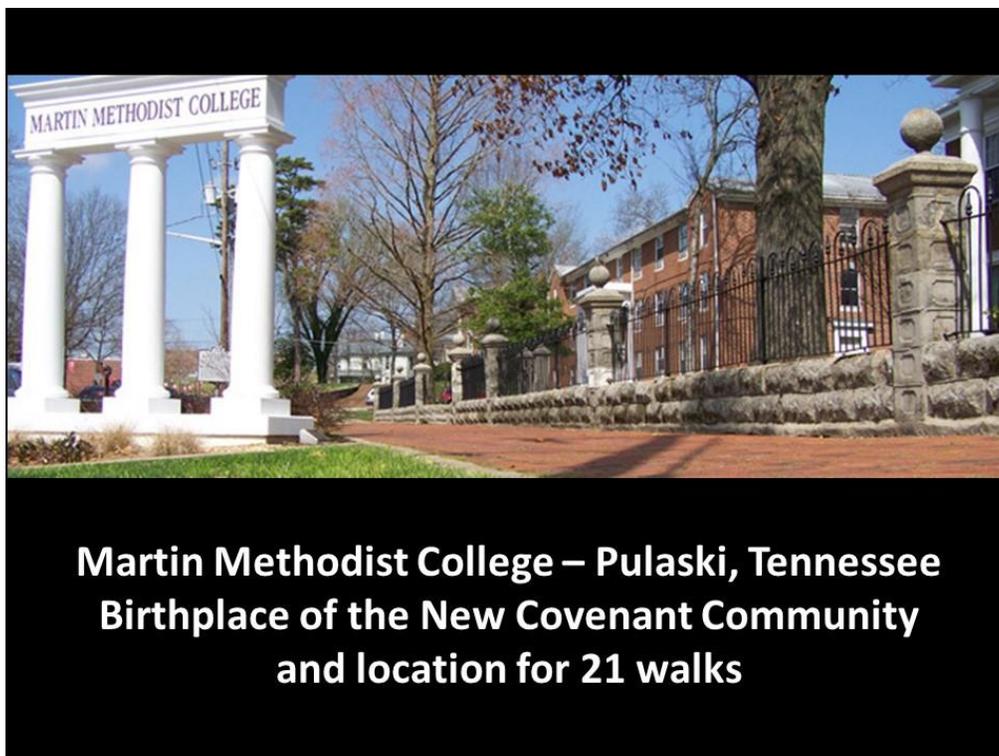
Upcoming Kairos weekends are:

**Julia Tutwiler Kairos #57, on September 19-22,
NACWC (Decatur) Kairos #7, on September 26-29,
and Limestone Kairos #68, on October 17-20**

You can help us by supporting the prayer vigils, writing letters to inmates, making placemat or poster agape, buying meal tickets (\$5), and baking home-made cookies (special rules apply, call us first!).

If you would like to get involved, or even just to attend a closing to see what this ministry is all about, visit the Alabama Kairos website at www.kairos-al.org, or contact Jack at jkpmlawrence@bellsouth.net.

FROM THE NEW COVENANT ARCHIVES:



For many years now, the New Covenant Emmaus Community's walks have been exclusively at our beloved Crystal Springs Camp. But that is not where we started!

In the spring of 1994, about fifty Christians, most of whom did not know each other, met in the auditorium at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee, and made a commitment to start a new Emmaus community. New Covenant Walks #1 and #2 were held at the college the following May, as soon as the students left for summer vacation. But that was the only time of the year that the college was available to us, so we had to find other locations to hold our walks.

While one set of walks was usually held at Martin College each May, other venues were found for additional walks. Over the next 15 years, we held walks at Camp Anderel in Rogersville (14 walks!), Camp Maranatha in Scottsboro (9 walks!), and Camp Christian Dells in Decatur (just one walk, but a great one!).

The New Covenant Emmaus Community has a rich heritage that reaches well beyond beautiful Crystal Springs!