

# New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



## NEW COVENANT NOTES

Spring, 2024

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#### 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

Bob Druzynski, 2024

Lorie Vital, 2024

Kelly Watts, 2024

Thomas Kingery, 2025

Jamie Polk, 2025

Kathleen Phraner, 2025

Carol Goforth, 2025

Kathy Patrick, 2026

Julie Melton, 2026

Krishna Gehrs, 2026



### **STAY CONNECTED!**

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](mailto:webservant@newcovenantemmaus.com)**

Also, check out our website for all upcoming events, volunteer and sponsorship forms and lots of other important information!

**[www.newcovenantemmaus.com](http://www.newcovenantemmaus.com)**

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR**

*Psalm 95-1 Oh come, let us sing to the  
Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the  
rock of our salvation!*

Spring has sprung and it is time to Rise and Shine and give God the glory! I hope you are singing with me! Speaking of singing, there is another well known “sing along song” that we all know and love that is also appropriate for this time! Happy Birthday to NCEC!

New Covenant has been working diligently to strengthen and fortify our local churches by helping create faithful and committed servants for 30 years! That is definitely something to celebrate, and I hope to celebrate all year. Please see the special section in this newsletter that provides you with a little NCEC History! You might learn something, and you might be inspired by the testimonies to Perseverance which we have been so fortunate to witness. Also, make plans to attend our monthly Gatherings to share birthday cake with us!

The new board members are doing a fabulous job, and we are thankful for them, and for David Crouch as he is learning Annette Strickland’s duties after her resignation. Both David and Annette are also living testimonies to perseverance in a life lived in grace, and of service to the community, glorifying God and making disciples who make disciples.

Happy Birthday NCEC!  
DeColores!  
Sonya Shook  
NCEC Community Lay Directors  
(256) 244-2801

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

Have you ever had a day that is so full of excitement, a day that nothing can go wrong? Even if people have negative things to say, it doesn't matter because this day is the day. The day when everything comes together and life from here on out is going to be amazing....

Did a day come to mind for you? Maybe it was your wedding day? The first day at your dream job? The birth of a child or grandchild? There are so many days that can feel that the world is exactly as it should be. But, what about the next day? The day when someone just completely loses their cool and you begin to see everything falling apart. Then that one that you look up to, maybe it's a spouse or a boss or a great friend, that one is now being questioned by other leaders. That one that helped you get to where you are is now being told they have no authority.

What is happening? Why is everything spiraling down around you? And it only gets worse, this one has now pulled you aside and said they must leave. Who will you turn to in your time of need? Who will be there to get you through all of this?

This may seem like it's just too much, there is no way all of this would happen. Let's stop for a minute and think of the disciples during what we now call Holy Week. The excitement they would have felt as Jesus triumphantly enters the city and even when told by the Pharisees to get His disciples to be quiet, Jesus boldly proclaims that if they were to be silent the rocks would cry out.

The disciples had to have been on top of the world, the Messiah was entering the city with shouts of praise and honor and glory all around. Then on the very next day Jesus loses His cool as He enters the temple and begins driving out the money changers and those who were selling. Have you ever stopped to wonder what the disciples may have thought at that moment? Were they cheering Him on, or were they afraid of what might happen because of this outburst? Then Jesus begins to have his authority questioned and the chief priests and other teachers of the law begin trying to find a way to have Him arrested. They have seen trouble before, but as the week draws to an end and as you have a meal with Jesus, He breaks bread and tells you that this is His body broken for you, and as He takes the cup He says that is the new covenant in His blood that is poured out for you. And before this evening is over the disciples watch their Rabbi being arrested.

A week that started out so amazing was ending in the worst way possible. Maybe you've experienced weeks like that. Maybe you're in the middle of one right now. Scripture shows us that even Christ's followers had lost hope, the women only wanted to honor His memory and finish preparing His body for burial as they headed to the tomb on Sunday morning. But the pain they felt as they left the house completely vanished as they reached the tomb because He was not dead, He is alive.

No matter where you are in life right now, remember these women, even in the darkest of times, they got up, they went out. Don't lose hope, get up, and go out and wait for the miracle. As many have said, it may be Friday, but Sunday's coming!

DeColores,  
Daryl Randolph  
Community Spiritual Director



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **WALK FOLLOW UP GATHERING DATES:**

**Emmaus Walk Spring: April 26, 2024**

**Chrysalis Flight: June 21, 2024**

**Face to Face: July 19, 2024**

### **Chrysalis Girl's Flight #58**

**May 25-27, 2024 - Jeana Kowerduck, Lay Leader**

### **Face to Face #9**

**June 24, 25, 27, 28**

**Randall's Chapel Church, Scottsboro, AL**

**Sonya Shook, Lay Director**

### **Men's Walk #112**

**October 10-13, 2024 - Pete Lawrence, Lay Director**

### **Women's Walk #113**

**October 17-20, 2024 - Susy Bates, Lay Director**



## New Covenant Chrysalis Jeana Kowerduck, Lay Leader

By the time Flight 58 begins, it will have been almost 2 years since I was asked to be the Lay Leader. Then I had a year of waiting and lots of praying. Finally, things began to happen. Now in less than 2 months the Flight will be over!

The Girls' Chrysalis Flight is Memorial Day weekend beginning Saturday morning May 25<sup>th</sup> through Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Remember Candlelight is on Sunday with the Community gathering at 8 p.m. (Candlelight is just like on a Walk except it is a different day.) Please sponsor girls in grades 8-12, including 2024 graduates and rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders (just finished 7<sup>th</sup> grade). Without Participants there isn't a Flight.

Chrysalis is similar yet different from Emmaus. The most important difference is that it is designed for youth—and partially lead by youth. If a teen is open to learning more about God and to experiencing an inkling of His love, then they are ready for a Flight. They are ready to strengthen their own personal Faith. A lot can happen before someone is old enough and ready to go on a Walk! Going on a Flight does not prevent someone from later going on a Walk. You can do both.

I realize we are all busy. You may not be able to come to Candlelight, or send Agape, or sponsor. What you can do is pray. Please pray for the girls and the team. Without prayer the weekend becomes a bunch of people hanging out at Camp Chrystal Springs.

Fly with Christ!

Jeana Kowerduck  
Lay Leader Flight 58

## **WALK TO EMMAUS: Men's Walk #110 – Chris Spain, Lay Director**

I first want to say thank you to the community for the opportunity to serve as the Lay Director for Walk 110. It doesn't seem like it was a year ago when I was asked to serve.

God speaks to us in many ways, whether through dreams, others, or, even a bird that lands in your window. At the beginning of this walk, I was doubting myself. Will I be enough? And God spoke through a friend. My takeaway was that I will never be enough, but with the Great I Am, there will always be enough to spare.

Then, there was the lesson He taught me about relationship over righteousness. He has a task for me to do, but it should never cloud my relationship with Him or others in my life. It should make those relationships stronger and that is one of the key takeaways to know He is with us.

I have received so much support from this community and am happy to serve however I'm needed. I look forward to Walk 110 and all future opportunities that come my way to serve the Great I Am!

Now it is your turn. We need prayer, prayer, and then, you guessed it, when you think you have prayed enough, pray again! Then there are the pilgrims. Please think about sponsoring. Just like building the teams for Walk 110, God has already chosen who is going to be there. We just have to figure out who He has chosen. If He has involved you, His blessings will rain on you. So please pray. Make sure that you are listening to His response. Sometimes it is a whisper, and other times it's a little more drastic.

Even If you could not serve formally on this walk, please come support these new pilgrims at Candlelight and Closing. You won't regret it!

Fight with Love! DeColores,  
Chris Spain



## **WALK TO EMMAUS: Women's Walk #111 – Cindy Blalock, Lay Director**

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. **Isaiah 41:10**

Hello brothers and sister in Christ! I cannot tell you what an honor it is to be asked to serve as Lay Director on Walk #111. It has been exactly 40 walks since my walk #71. Wow, what a life changing experience!

I have been blessed to be asked many times to serve and proudly served beside some of my favorite people in this world. God puts us where we need to be, when we need to be there and I thank Him every day for giving me the strength and the knowledge to do what He needs me to do.

Now, I need something from you, Walks #110 and #111 need your prayers first and foremost, but we need extra helpers. If you can be there at any time to help as a Day Angel or Clean Up crew on the Sunday of either walk, you will be greatly appreciated. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child, it also takes a community to complete a Walk. Let's join together so this load doesn't fall on a few faithful's.

I cannot wait to see you all at Send off, Candlelight and Closing. Let's support these men and ladies, let's show them what this community is about.... God's love and faithfulness.

DeColores,  
Cindy Blalock



## **FACE TO FACE #9**

### **Sonya Shook, Lay Director**

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, or those who are physically unable to attend a walk in the camp setting. It was developed for this 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

After I recovered from my surprise at being asked, I found myself saying Yes! To serving as the Lay Director for Face-to-Face #9. I have always served with the mindset that I am not called to pick and choose, I am called to say yes, to be willing. I am willing and excited as we prepare for Face-to-Face #9 at Randall's Chapel Global Methodist Church in Scottsboro, AL. I covet your prayers as the team is formed and trained. We are blessed to be able to strengthen our local churches through the most wise and consistent percentage of the congregations in our world currently.

Face to Face allows participants the opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their life, gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity. Many have been blessed who would never had the opportunity to attend a walk otherwise due to age or physical impairments.

If you desire a deeper, more meaningful walk with the risen Christ; if you would like that relationship to be reflected in every other relationship in your life; if you wish to make a deeper impact on the world around you by living a life centered on Jesus Christ; please join us as we encounter the risen Christ ... Face to Face.

DeColores!

Sonya Shook



Please be sure you have filled out a volunteer form! We would LOVE for you to serve on upcoming Walk, Flight or Encounter!! Volunteer forms are available on our website.



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, 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!! Sponsorship forms are available on our website!



Have you heard about Kairos? Kairos is a four-day retreat, much like Emmaus, for prisoners. Like Emmaus, a Kairos weekend runs Thursday through Sunday and is held at the facility hosting the Kairos weekend.

The talks given on a weekend are tailored for those incarcerated (e.g. Choices, rather than Priorities), and due to the time constraints that a prison must have for safety, there are only eleven talks given, with an additional four talks given on a follow up weekend.

There are Kairos weekends for men, for women, and Kairos Outside caters to the women impacted by having their loved ones incarcerated. The north Alabama region has two Kairos Communities, North Alabama Work Release Center - aka Decatur Work Release - and Limestone. There is also a Kairos Outside community that serves the northern half of Alabama, as well as a Kairos community that serves the women's facility at Tutweiler.

If you are interested in knowing more about Kairos, we have several New Covenant Members that are active in Kairos that would be happy to share with you. Contact Bob Druzynski ([droozer1218@gmail.com](mailto:droozer1218@gmail.com)) if you are interested in serving on a Kairos team.

We have two Kairos' scheduled this year, one in Decatur in June and Limestone is finally opening up to host Kairos over the Labor Day weekend. If you have a heart or calling to tend to the incarcerated, consider working a Kairos weekend!

"I was in prison and you came to visit me" Matthew 25:36

# REUNION

revisit. reunite. relive.

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.

You can find a complete list of our reunion groups on our website:  
[www.newcovenantemmaus.com](http://www.newcovenantemmaus.com)



## **NCEC - 30 YEARS!**

Christians in this part of the country won't forget the Palm Sunday weekend in 1994 for a long time. That was when a tornado destroyed the Goshen UMC. Until the day we meet Jesus face to face, we will never know exactly what roles the Lord and Satan each played in that traumatic event, but we all watched in wonder as we saw the Holy Spirit work in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Something else happened that weekend however, that would ultimately affect more lives and produce more personal miracles than a hundred such tornados.

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.

At the urging of Marv and Karen Barnett, who had recently moved to Tennessee from Huntsville where they had been very active in the North Alabama Emmaus Community, the Nashville Emmaus Community had agreed to hold two of their walks at Martin Methodist College that summer as an outreach to the start of a new community. And from then on it would be up to us.

The meeting had some notable attendees. Rev Cheri Jones, head of Emmaus International, came down from Nashville. The Lay and Spiritual Directors from the Nashville Community and the Lay Director of the North Alabama Community were there, along with the Lay and Spiritual Directors of the upcoming walks at Martin. Attendees sang songs, prayed together, ate together (started that tradition right away!), listened to a general plan that Marv and Karen had put together, and then enjoyed a time of good fellowship and serious discussion of where and how the Holy Spirit was leading. There were several sign-up sheets, and most of the attendees signed up for one task or another. And from that point, the Holy Spirit took off at a dead run and it was all everyone could do to keep up!

The steering committee became active immediately and Rev Russ Cain of St. Andrew Memorial UMC in Pulaski, Tennessee became the first Spiritual Director and St. Andrew UMC was designated our monthly gathering place.

In July of 1994, many participated in Nashville Walks #83 and #84. About half of the team was from Alabama and half from Tennessee and most of the pilgrims were from North Alabama. A notable exception was a group of eight ladies from Russia who were visiting the United States. If the names of the pilgrims on those walks were listed here, you would recognize most of them. Not counting the Russian ladies, there were a total of 51 pilgrims on those walks. Of those, eight have gone on to be Lay Directors of an Emmaus Walk or Kairos or Chrysalis and four have entered the ministry. Not bad!

In November of 1994, the first Board of Directors was elected and Bob Potter served as the first Community Lay Director. In preparation for the community's first two walks, there was much excitement and participation of willing servants. Bill Wallace and Bill Cook from Rogersville hand-made the beautiful kneelers that are still used every walk. David Whitlow from Savannah made the beautiful large wood cross that is used to hang pilgrim crosses on. Kerry Lawrence came up with the winning name for the community – "New Covenant". Carolyn Turner designed the logo that would be on T-shirts and sweatshirts. It was decided to incorporate the best of traditions of other communities that were known at that time. Many made banners and other permanent agape and supplies began to accumulate in the official storage site (Marv and Karen's attic). The Holy Spirit chose Jerry and Joann Wiemers to lead Walks #1 and #2 in June of 1995.

And as they say, the rest is history. New Covenant has now completed many walks conducted at five different locations. About 3,000 pilgrims of many denominations have had a special encounter with Christ. And there have been so many special blessings! The Community has enjoyed several special Fourth Day Celebrations together. Bill and Lagene Wright and the Lawrenceburg folks began a tradition of summer picnics. Terry Smith not only instigated a Galatians Fund to help those in need, but also developed an idea for Praise Singings to take the Emmaus spirit into local churches. The Community will certainly never forget the afternoon that New Covenant packed a visiting room at Huntsville Hospital to sing to our brother, Woody Wood. In the fall of 2001, the New Covenant Community expanded to the east as the Community began conducting walks at Camp Maranatha as an outreach to the Scottsboro area.

And there's one more chapter that cannot be forgotten. In 1996, the Holy Spirit energized members of the community to establish a Chrysalis community for high school age youth. The members of the steering committee were Donnie and Shelia Gross, Mike and Trish Brewer, George and Dana Crummie, Pete Lawrence, Roger and Pat Kent, and Joe Roberts. Many flights have produced about 1,000 butterflies!



There is no way to begin to measure the impact these flights have had, not only in the hearts of those young Christians, but in our schools, in our society, and on the future of our world.

The Upper Room started a new Emmaus Program called Face to Face an Encounter for Pilgrims 60 years of age or Pilgrims that could not physically participate in the 72 hour Walk to Emmaus. New Covenant Emmaus Community Lay Director Cindy Haney and Heidi Bender trained through Upper Room and the Nashville Emmaus Community.

New Covenant conducted Encounter #1 in June, 2017 under the leadership of JoAnn Clem, Lay Director and Randy Crawford, Spiritual Director. Encounters have opened an opportunity for our senior adults to experience Emmaus over 8 half days to give encouragement, joy and courage.

This community continues to grow through the spirit of cooperation and charity In God's will and for His glory.

**WELCOME, DECOLORES AND FLY WITH CHRIST!**

