

New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



NEW COVENANT NOTES

Spring, 2025

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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Bob Druzynski, Community Lay Director, 2027
Bill Alexander, Community Spiritual Director, 2027

Kelly Watts, 2027

Susy Bates, 2027

Christine Yergert, 2027

Dale Capron, 2027 (Clergy)

Krishna Gehrs, 2026

Joe Pittman, 2026

Nona Butler, 2026

Kathy Patrick, 2026

Traci Loveman, 2026 (Clergy)

Jamie Polk, 2025

Carol Newsome, 2025

Becky Scott, 2025 (Clergy)

Brant Harwell, 2025



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

Also, check out our website for all upcoming events including gatherings, walks, flights and encounters! You can also find volunteer and sponsorship forms, a list of our reunion groups and lots of other important information!
www.newcovenantemmaus.com

We also have a Private FACEBOOK Page. Check it out!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/164495715554/>

Please make sure your information is correct or add your information in **MINISTRY MANAGER!** This is our community member data base! We will pull your contact information from Ministry Manager when we contact you to work a Walk, Flight or Encounter!
It's important to keep your info up-to-date!

<https://ministrymanager.upperroom.org/>

New Covenant Emmaus Walk #1

Walk #1 was held at Martin College in July of 1995, 30 years ago! Jerry Wiemers was the Lay Director. Take a look at the team photo and team lists.... You may recognize some people that ARE STILL ACTIVE in our community and some that are well-remembered by some of our old-timers! Just think....it all started with Walk #1, then someone from Walk #1 sponsored a pilgrim on Walk #2... and here we are, we just finished Walk #114 and #115.



New Covenant Emmaus #1 6-9 Jul 95	
Back Row:	Scott Duvall, ✓ Mike Brewer, Mike Gooding, ✓ David Miller, Russ Robb, Marvin Dokten, Mike Oliver, Jerry Brown
Fifth Row:	Bob McDuff, Maurice Roberts, Medgitt (Woody) Wood, Kenny Marsh, Chad Gipson, Jim Downing, Ken Davis, Kenneth Lamar, Marion Davis (left Saturday morning - death of Father)
Fourth Row:	Steve Carter, Bruce Rainey, B.T. Thomas, Randy Stanfield, Paul Patterson, Bill Wallace, Al Hardy, John Daniel, Steve Farrow
Third Row:	Bill Mueller, Keith Davis, Jason Dudley, Clyde Hightower, ✓ Jim McCaig, Tim Wilkins, Stan McCarver, Bill Wright, Don Healey
Second Row:	Dave Yerden, Walter Tackett, Susan Sadler, John Dickey, Chip Knedlik, Joan Napp, Jim Napp, Pat Eckman, Terry Smith
Front Row:	Glenn Walker, Ritchie Whorton, Larry Byrd, Stan Weems, Jerry Wiemers, Jack Lawrence, Eric Bell, Archie Cleecker

NEW COVENANT EMMAUS
WALK # 1
JULY 6-9, 1995

July 5, 1995

TEAM HEAD	HOLY SPIRIT
LAY DIRECTOR	Jerry Wiemers (Perseverance)
ASST LAY DIRECTORS	Larry Byrd (Priority)
	Glenn Walker (Life in Piety)
	Stan Weems
	Ritchie Whorton (Christian Action)
CO-SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS	Joan Napp (Sanctifying Grace)
	Jim Napp (Means of Grace)
ASST SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS	Eric Bell (Justifying Grace)
	Archie Cleckler (Obstacles to Grace)
	Terry Smith (Prevenient Grace)
TABLE LEADERS	Steve Carter
	Jim Downing
	Al Hardy
	Don Henley
ASST TABLE LEADERS	Keith Davis (Growth Through Study)
	Paul Patterson (Priesthood of All Believers)
	B.T. Thomas (Discipleship)
	Bill Wallace (Fourth Day)
	Medgitt (Woody) Wood (Changing Our World)
	Bill Wright (Body of Christ)
	Jack Lawrence, Susan Sadler, Walter Tacket
MUSIC	
COMMITTEES:	
→ AGAPE	Lagene Wright, Trish Brewer
CANDLELIGHT	Gaye Hardy, Pat & Roger Kent
CHILD CARE	Denise Wood
CLOSING	Bob Potter
ENTERTAINMENT	Toni Ervin-Saunders & Co
HOSPITALITY	
-BED & TABLE AGAPE	Toni Locke, Pete Lawrence
-HOUSING/REGISTRATION	Jack Lawrence
-Meal Service	Janice Hill, Betty Atkinson, Greg Miller, Jim Wright
PHOTOGRAPHER	Marv Barnett
REFRESHMENTS	Lola Pottenger, Sara Brown, Mary Liles, Stella McDuff
SPEAKER'S PRAYER CHAPEL	Trillis Weems, Toni Ervin-Saunders
SPONSOR'S HOUR	Bill & Betty Stone
WORSHIP SETTINGS	Marv & Karen Barnett

Committee Service:

SPEAKERS' PRAYER CHAPEL

Trillis Weems and Toni Ervin-Saunders

AGAPE

Lagene Wright, Trish Brewer, Toni Locke, and Pete Lawrence

REFRESHMENTS

Lola Pottenger, Sara Brown, Mary Liles, and Stella McDuff

MEAL SERVICE

Janice Hill, Betty Atkinson, Greg Miller, and Jim Wright

WORSHIP SETTINGS

Marv and Karen Barnett

SPONSORS' HOUR

Bill and Betty Stone

CANDLELIGHT

Gaye Hardy, Pat and Roger Kent

ENTERTAINMENT

Toni Ervin-Saunders & Co

CHILDCARE

Denise Wood

CLOSING

Philip and Susan Christian Bob Potter



Sponsorship season is quickly approaching, and it should be on top of mind for everyone.

Sponsorship is a special act of AGAPE we can give our active Christian friends. Pilgrim sponsorship serves as a renewal not only for the pilgrims but also for their sponsors.

Local churches benefit greatly when members provide sponsorship opportunities for their church family and friends.

My husband and I are currently witnessing the beauty and impact of pilgrim sponsorship within our local church community. Our new church family has approximately thirty-two active New Covenant Emmaus Walk members. Pilgrim sponsorship has ignited a fire within Redemption Church-one that is evident in every church service. I've been deeply moved by the men and women returning from their Walks with a renewed passion to serve the local church body and community. I've seen in them a deep hunger to grow their personal relationship with Christ-through daily Bible study, faithful church attendance, and a genuine desire to be the hands and feet of God.

Luke 24:32 says, they said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" Let us pray for God to place people on our hearts in preparation for the upcoming New Covenant Emmaus Walks!

De Colores!

Susy Bates

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR
COMMUNITY LAY
DIRECTOR
*BOB DRUZYNSKI***

De Colores, New Covenant Family!

By the time this newsletter is published, our Spring 2025 Walks will have commenced and a new batch of Pilgrims will have become full-fledged members of the New Covenant community.

It is an honor to serve as your Community Lay Director this year. The community has a new Board ready to serve you and make New Covenant a place where you can worship, serve, make friends, be disciples, and most of all, have fun serving our Lord! Whether it be attending Gatherings, serving on teams, or enjoying the yearly picnic where the Board of Directors do all the work, we hope that you find joy in meeting with fellow Christians and knowing you are loved by our one true Father.

This year will also bring many opportunities for you to serve and be the hands and feet of God. There will be Chrysalis Flights, Face to Face Encounters, and the Fall Walks you can volunteer to work. It does not matter if you are on a support team, working in a conference room, or simply help cleaning up the camp at the end of an event, your effort is appreciated.

There is one huge benefit of working together side by side on whatever event you are involved in, and that is strengthening friendships and the community. The strongest relationships I have with community members are those that were nurtured and matured working on a shared task. There is something about serving side-by-side with a fellow follower of Christ that brings you closer!

Another area that you might want to consider is being a member of the Board of Directors. We will be taking names of those that may be interested in serving on the Board soon and creating a ballot that will be sent to the community. If you are asked, please prayerfully consider serving. If you are interested, please talk to one of our Board members and we can answer any questions you may have about serving. Even if you do not wish to serve on the Board at this time, when you receive the ballot, please vote! The community is only as strong as the leadership we have.

I am looking forward to seeing what this year brings and how the community will grow!

COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING

KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS

WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS!!!

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR
COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL
DIRECTOR
*BILL ALEXANDER***

Last Fall I was asked to allow my name to be put in nomination as clergy on our community board of directors. Even though I wanted to say no, I could feel the Lord. I asked for time to pray about it, but I already knew what I needed to say. Several days later, I consented to the nomination.

I was told that Carol Goforth would be nominated as Community Spiritual Director. I looked forward to working with her and learning from her since she had much more experience in our community. Alas, God had other plans, and He called her home.

The Board of Directors then asked me to serve as Community Spiritual Director. It is a huge privilege, and great responsibility and I am deeply honored that our community has asked me to serve in this position.

Several years ago, a friend of mine told me about the Walk to Emmaus. It sounded interesting to me and as I kept asking questions, he asked me if I would be willing to help with a Walk since there is often a shortage of clergy. When I agreed, he told me that to work a Walk I had to go on one as a pilgrim first. So, I agreed to go on the Walk, but I thought to myself that I didn't need it. I graduated college with a Biblical Studies degree, graduated seminary, and had been a pastor for 18 years.

While my Walk was interesting, moving, and even convicting, I didn't think it was life changing. It was only later that I began to realize how life changing it actually was. The Walk planted the seeds that grew as time passed. I have often thought that had I not stayed active in a reunion group that held me accountable those seeds may well have died.

If I were asked to list the things that were the most important to spiritual growth I would start with regular church attendance, regular Bible reading and study, then an accountability group. I cannot overemphasize the importance and necessity of a reunion group or accountability group. Your group does not have to be just people who have been on a Walk, they just need to be people who will be open and honest with you and you with them.

Do you want to keep the fire of the Walk to Emmaus? A reunion or accountability group is a necessity. If you are not involved in one, ask for help to find one or to start your own. This is very important, and we'll be glad to help.



UPCOMING EVENTS!!

UPCOMING GATHERING DATES: **Friendship Church, Athens, AL 6:30 PM**

May 16, 2025 (Spring Walks Follow Up Gathering)
June 20, 2025
July 18, 2025
August 15, 2025
September 19, 2025
October 24, 2025 (Fall Walks Follow Up Gathering)
November 21, 2025

UPCOMING FLIGHTS, ENCOUNTERS AND WALKS

Chrysalis Girl's Flight
May 24-26, 2025 – Crystal Springs Camp

Face to Face Encounter #10
June 23, 24, 26, 27, 2025
Janet Vader, Lay Director
West Highland Baptist Church, Athens, AL

Chrysalis Boys Flight
August 20-September 1, 2025 – Crystal Springs Camp

Men's Walk #116
October 9-12, 2025 – Michael Rush, Lay Director
Crystal Springs Camp

Women's Walk #117
October 16-19, 2025 – Jamie Polk, Lay Director
Crystal Springs Camp



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.



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) if you are interested in serving on a Kairos team.

Neither do men light a candle,
and put it under a bushel, but on
a candlestick; and it giveth light
unto all that are in the house.
Let your light so shine before
men, that they may see your
good works, and glorify your
Father which is in heaven.
Matthew 5:15-16



Men's Walk to Emmaus#114

Chuck Cashon, Lay Director

Over the past several months while preparing for Walk #114 and attending meetings, I have seen the Lord at work preparing His Team to include the individuals He wants to serve on this particular Walk.

I've seen members of the Board of Directors go out of their way to meet and make decisions about changes, and at the first team meeting, I saw everyone openly share their heartfelt prayers for the Pilgrims, their families, and the team.

It has been beautiful to hear some of the heartfelt Talks during the previews from some of the speakers... so I know the Pilgrims will treasure the messages from the Talks for a long time.

Our prayer is that the Pilgrims are able to lay down their burdens at the Cross, so they can walk before God in the light of life and to carry-out His will here on earth.

We continue to ask for your prayers for Walk #114 and especially for the Pilgrims. PRAY!

Please show your support by your attendance at the follow up gathering!

De Colores!

Women's Walk to Emmaus#115

Krishna Gehrs, Lay Director

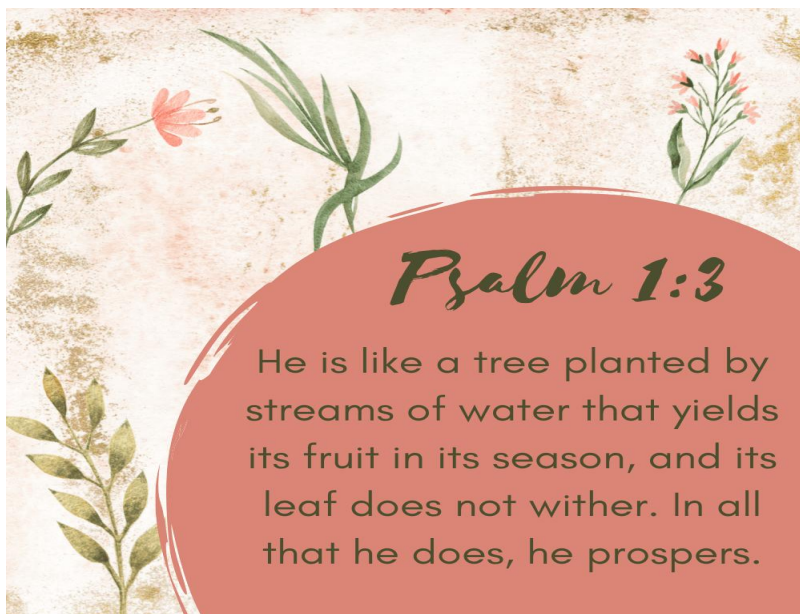
Hello family! What an amazing experience this past year of preparation has been! God has proven He is so faithful. He just wants our surrender and trust.

I want to thank you all for your prayers and support for Walk 115. I shared in my talk this weekend about the family you have all become; how you have loved and supported me since the first day of my walk, #85!

To the ladies of walk 115, it has been a tremendous blessing to spend this weekend with you all. I pray that you have found love, freedom and confidence in our great God.

Remember that your new family will always be here for you!

Love you all so very much! De Colores





WHAT IS 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, 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 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. 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.

FACE TO FACE ENCOUNTER #10

Janet Vader, Lay Director

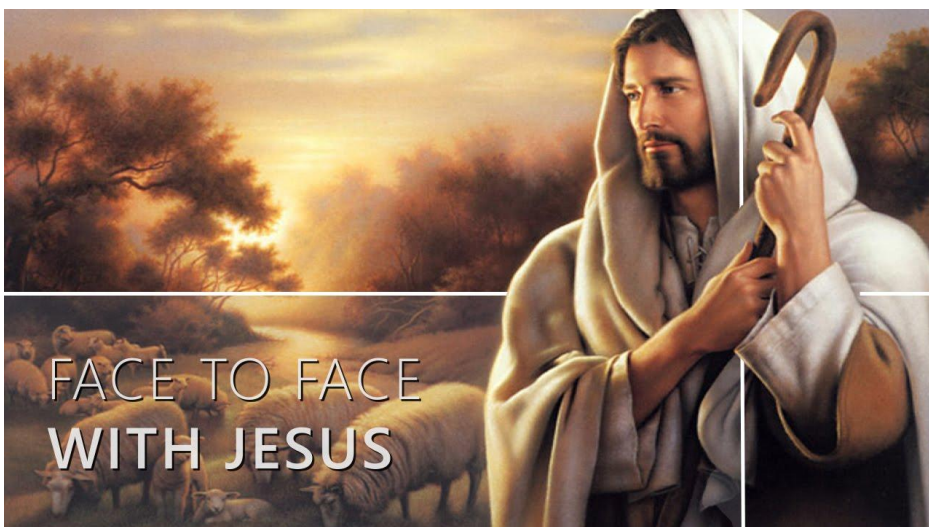
It's that time again for the next Face to Face Encounter. Brought to you by the New Covenant Emmaus Community.

This year's event will be held at West Highland Baptist Church in Athens scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday June 23,24,26,27, 2025.

Application forms are on our website under the sponsorship tab. Pilgrims do not need a sponsor, so if you are concerned about driving your pilgrim to the facility every day, no problem they can drive themselves.

Please pray!! Especially for those who whom the Holy Spirit even now may be laying on your heart to invite to this exciting and transformative experience!

If you or someone you know desires 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.



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

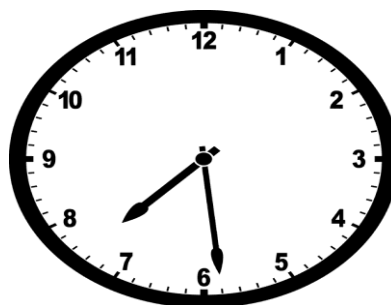
Jack Lawrence

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?





One of the notable stories concerning Jesus is found in Luke 24:13-35, which serves as the scriptural basis for the Walk to Emmaus weekend. This narrative not only recounts a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus but also illustrates themes of discipleship and spiritual companionship. In this passage, two individuals are walking together, reflecting on their recent experiences and attempting to make sense of them collectively. During their journey, they are joined by Jesus, who appears to them as a stranger and imparts teachings.

A couple of the talks we hear during an Emmaus weekend discuss the significance and functioning of Group Reunions. Additionally, we hear about how spiritual companions serve as a means of grace. The narrative in Luke, along with other related stories, emphasizes that individuals are not intended to undertake their spiritual journey in isolation, but rather to continue it in the company of others who share similar paths.

Group Reunions are a crucial aspect of maintaining the experience of our 4th Day. They provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our spiritual journey with Jesus in the presence of others. These gatherings occur in a confidential and non-judgmental environment where we can receive prayer support and companionship during challenging times, as well as share in each other's successes when circumstances are favorable.

Additionally, they offer a platform for mutual learning and accountability while fostering a connection to Christ.

In the same manner as depicted in the story of Luke, whenever we gather together, Jesus is present to teach and guide us. He may also reveal Himself in a refreshing manner through a Group Reunion. I strongly encourage you to either join an existing Group Reunion or establish one of your own. This can be conducted in person or through any suitable format such as Zoom or Google Meets. The key is to maintain regular meetings and to engage honestly, utilizing the Group Reunion cards provided as the structure for the meeting. If you need assistance with getting started, please reach out to me and I will try to help you. Here's my email: beckyscottsd@gmail.com

Becky Scott, 4th Day Coordinator

HIGHLIGHTED REUNION GROUP:

We are so excited to announce a new reunion group for men and women named **Kingdom Builders**! This group is a way to encourage one another, share in God's love, and grow deeper in our relationship with Christ.

We support each other through prayer, love, and unity as we seek to live out God's purpose in our lives. We'll meet once a month to start.

Come join us on this journey of faith, fellowship, and spiritual growth!

De Colores!
Chuck Cashon
Kingdom Builders
j.cashon@gmail.com

REUNION GROUPS 2025

Name	POC	Location
AHA Sisterhood (Women)	Robbie Walls, 256-656-4949, Robbielynn153@yahoo.com	South Huntsville
CandleGlow (Women)	Sheri Richardson 256-777-5872, sheridr10@gmail.com	Harvest
Cracked Pots	Jamie Polk 256-651-0685	Athens
D By J	Sharon Keffer, 256-656-4522 pastorsharonkeffer@gmail.com	Virtual
Espresso Yourself (Women)	Debra Snyder	Scottsboro
Fourth Day Way (Mixed)	Mary Patterson 256-558-7278 patt4us@yahoo.com Doug Kirk 256-541-7470 dougkirk10@mail.com	Grant
Full Circle (Men)	Bruce Parris (256) 325-6082, bruce.gameon@yahoo.com	Virtual
G Girls (Women)	Connie Watkins, 256-679-6727 connieraewatkins@gmail.com	Cullman
Holland Creek (Mixed)	Brenna Bonner/Conrad Bonner Brenna.bonner75@gmail.com	Ardmore
Journey with Jesus (Women)	Beverly Heddens or Kim Lankford	Harvest/Madison
JOY (Women)	Annette Strickland 256-233-3601	Athens
Lunch In The Park (Men)	Jack Lawrence (256) 797-5884, jkplawrence@bellsouth.net	Huntsville
Ragamuffins (Mixed)	Kay Dotson (931) 242-1957, kdkdotson@gmail.com	Loretto TN
Redeemed (Women)	Robbi Montgomery 256-682-1478 rmontgomery331@gmail.com	Hazel Green
Renaissance (Mixed)	Keith Lewis (256) 762-9050, keithdlewis2384@yahoo.com	Florence

Resurrection Rejoicing (Women)	Teresa Martin (256) 498-3162	Somerville
Running The Show	Steve Williams, 256-206-5416	Athens
Son Shine	JoAnn Clem, 256-682-2446 joannfclem@att.net	Huntsville
SOS: Sisters of Serenity (Women)	Vicki McCurry, 256-603-4001, vickimccurry@gmail.com	Huntsville
Southern Girls 4 Him (Women)	Beverly Patalas 256-609-5401	Scottsboro
The Shining Lights	Karen Stenson	Meridianville, AL
Thursday Morning Men's Group	Harry Richardson	Harvest/Madison
Tuesday Morning Men's Group	John Beatty (256) 729-1311, johnbeatty55@gmail.com	Athens
Kingdom Builders (Mixed)	Chuck Cashon j.cashon@gmail.com	Ardmore, AL
We Are Family (Women)	Cindy Glover (931) 363-3233, cindyglover@gmail.com	Pulaski TN
Women of Grace	Jeana Kowerduck	Huntsville
You Get A Line & I'll Get A Pole (Mixed Group)	Kelly Watts (256) 652-6734, kellyduffie@aol.com	Ardmore, AL