



The

APOSTLE

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THE SHOALS CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 1
January 2009

The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. Psalm 145:15-16 NCT

CLUSTER BOARD

LAY DIRECTOR

Thomas Martin

ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

Gloria Smith

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Gary Formby

ASST SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Joyce Akridge

CLUSTER COORDINATOR

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Clyde Brisendine

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COORDINATOR

Kay Davis

REUNION GROUP

COORDINATOR

Linda Watson

MUSIC

John Schuessler

DATABASE

Vic & Bonnie Watford

AGAPE

Verna White/Donna Cook

SPONSORSHIP

Neal & Cindy Harvey

72-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Martha Stevens

PAST CLUSTER DIRECTOR

Dianna Hurst

COMMUNITY BOARD

MEMBERS

John Schuessler

Bud Bottcher

2009 ALABAMA WALKS

347 Jan. 22-25	Men
348 Feb. 19-22	Women
349 Mar. 5-9	Women
350 Apr. 2-5	Women
351 Apr. 23-26	Men
352 May 14-17	Women
353 May 21-24	Women
354 Jun 11-14	Women
355 Aug 13-16	Men

DECEMBER MEETING

WOW! What a meeting! Even though this was not an open meeting as in years past, and even though it was quite close to Christmas, the estimates of attendance were around 140. Isn't that great? The Pilgrims returning from #346 were there to share, as well as some from other Walks. There was even a Pilgrim who came for the first time after going on his Walk last February. You never know what an encouraging word can do!!! The December meeting is when we hold our Memorial Service, and there were five of our members whose names were lifted up:

Virginia Adams
Lanell Butler
Peggy DuBois
Jud Sandlin
Bill Wallace

Friends and relatives spoke in celebration of their lives, and a candle was lighted to represent their presence in spirit among us as we communed. The devotion and communion were very meaningful, and the meeting was a beautiful way to add meaning to the Christmas season.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

As you can see in the column to the left, there are new board members taking their positions for the new year. Be sure to give them your full support, and feel free to take any questions or situations you may have to them at any time. The Standing Committees are still being completed, so if you are asked, please be willing to serve!

NEXT CLUSTER MEETING

Tuesday

JANUARY 20, 2009

6:00 p.m.

ST. JAMES UMC

COX CREEK BLVD.

FLORENCE, AL

BRING: Covered Dish
Pilgrim's Guide
Name Badge
Cross
GOOD JOKES
Joyful Noise Voice
Musical Instruments
Prayer Requests
An Emmaus Friend
-AND YOU!!!
(NURSERY PROVIDED)

#347 TO BE JAN 22-25

This Walk will be beginning on the Thursday after our Cluster meeting on the 20th, so this is your 'heads up' to get your letters written, and catch a ride to Candlelight! This Walk will be led by the Holy Spirit and Ken Hanby, and he will be drawing the team members from the Tuscaloosa/West Ala. Clusters. At this time, there are **TWO** Shoals men who are scheduled to attend this Walk:

#347

Bobby Terrell – Tusculmbia
Brandon Romans – Tusculmbia

Please be in prayer for these men, their families, sponsors, and for the team members and their families. When you write, encourage these men to come to Cluster and become involved, so that their journey does not stop when the Walk is over. Welcome them home!!



IMPORTANT INFO ON PSALM 16!!!

So.....have you made your pledge to Psalm 16 yet? If so, have you begun to give? If not, this is the time to put it all together – pledges and gifts!!! **What is Psalm 16?** This is the name chosen for the Capital Campaign to benefit Camp Sumatanga. If you have not had the opportunity to hear about this campaign yet, here is your chance. The camp is just over 50 years old, and needs some major renovations. In addition, there needs to be an endowment set up to see that Sumatanga is self-sufficient, and does not ever need to have another fund-raising event. To do this, the goal is to raise **\$4.9** million over the next five years. Now – this is where you come in!!! At the end of 2008, the funds raised and pledged totaled \$1.2 million. Of that, the Shoals Cluster has pledged **almost half** that amount - \$400,000+ - to take the naming opportunity for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Did you grasp that??? Right now we are responsible for almost half of what is on the books!!!!!! We all want to help as much as we can, so this part is so important!!!!!! **IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU TAKE PART – BUT EVEN MORE CRUCIAL IS THAT YOU WRITE 'SHOALS' ON EVERY CHECK YOU SEND!** IF YOUR GIFTS DON'T GO IN THE 'SHOALS' COLUMN, IT WILL MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO REACH OUR GOAL!!! And, it will be very, very obvious if we don't.

SHOALS EMMAUS CLUSTER
104 East 3rd Street
Tuscumbia AL 35674

Non-Profit Organization

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Permit #68

TUSCUMBIA, AL

**BEHOLD! WE ARE DOING A
NEW THING!!!**

As mentioned last month, the Shoals Cluster has agreed to assume the responsibility for making the fabric covers that for many years have been given as agape to each new Pilgrim for their Pilgrims Guide. This will require making eighty covers per Walk for sixteen Walks each year. These covers and the dogwood and spike crosses will be standard agape from the Shoals for each Walk. There will be more information later about a work day each month to press and sew, so anyone who wants to take part may do so. The Agape Committee will still be providing other varied forms of agape, and right now they need any men's neckties you are willing to give to them! Please bring these cast-off ties to the Cluster meeting on the 20th!

HOW CAN WE SAY THANKS?

A real gift of agape would be to tell the board members and the committee members who served last year in various ways how much you appreciate their gift of their time and energies to do the work of the Cluster. Why not be a Barnabas, and pass along a word of encouragement!?!

CALLING POST

To hear the current message for the Shoals Cluster on our computerized phone service, dial **1-800-925-7443** and enter the **ID# - 1999 568 996**

SPONSORSHIP 101

How many Pilgrims did you sponsor last year? Did you know that in 2008, there were **116** Pilgrims sponsored from the Shoals area? That makes an average of seven Pilgrims per Walk, or one Pilgrim per table. So, the Shoals area was responsible for roughly 15% of all Alabama Emmaus Pilgrims in 2008. Does that put a little perspective on the job we have at hand to see that all these **116** people are integrated into the life of our Cluster? This means that all of us need to be alert and active in making personal contact with these people as they return from their Walks. We all need to continue to reach out to them until they feel at home, and find their niche! ☺

WALK #348 IS FEB. 19-22

Walk #348 will be led by the Holy Spirit and Delle Cain, and the team will come from the Birmingham South and South Shelby Cluster Grouping. As the Apostle goes to press, we have **SIX** ladies on the list to attend:

#348

Glo Jenkie – Florence
Cindy White – Florence
Andi Flippen – Killen
Marie Stribling – M. Shoals
Judy Armstrong – Sheffield
Stacy Fulton – Tuscumbia
Jane Moon – Tuscumbia

You probably know some of these ladies, so make your plans now for their letters, and to be there for Candlelight. It will be a blessing for everyone!

WALK #349 TO BE MAR. 5-8

This Walk will be led by the Holy Spirit and Kay Jordan. The team will come from Birmingham East. This is still two months away, so names could change. But for now, there are **NINE** ladies who are scheduled for this Walk:

#349

Dorris Phillips – Florence
Mary Lee Dobbins – Florence
Kay Lovelace – Florence
Ranee Mitchell – Florence
Patricia Jester – Florence
Kaye White – Lexington
Pam Gray – Lexington
Beverly McCorkle – Rogersville
Sharon Davis – Rogersville

It seems we're off to a great start again in 2009! Since we have more than one Pilgrim per table, be sure if your Pilgrim knows another, that you let Kay know this. Her number is **205-648-2546**.

2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

ST. JAMES

January, May, September

ROGERSVILLE

March, July, November

TUSCUMBIA

February, April, June, August, October, December

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Carolyn Phillips – Office@alaemmaus.org
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Ted Hagler - (205) 951-6129 (W)
Camp Sumatanga – (256) 538-9860 (emergencies only)