



WalkTalk Newsletter

January 2023

The Greater Austin Emmaus Community

Volume 34, Number 14

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January 21 Gathering

2023 Walks at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center

Women's Walk #149 scheduled for May 4-7, 2023.

Now is the time for you, the members of our community, to seek and sponsor additional pilgrims to make this the "Best Walk Ever". We encourage the community to talk to people you know, complete applications early and submit them as soon as possible.

Men's Walk #150 : Next Men's Walk will be Nov 2-4, 2023

The cost of the weekend is \$240 and can be paid with a check or with a credit card for an additional fee of \$7.50 to cover the credit card processing fee. You can download pilgrim, sponsor, and church forms from the austinemmaus.org website. Scholarships are available and forms are on the website.

The Next Gathering is Saturday Jan 21 at St. Mark UMC

St. Mark UMC is located at 601 W. Braker Lane, Austin TX 78753. The potluck dinner is at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall and the worship will start at 6:15pm as usual in the Sanctuary. See the attached flyer for more information on the gathering. We should be finished by 7:30pm. Please mark your calendar so you can see friends, fellowship, eat, sing, and worship! So come get together and see folks you have not seen in years!!

Fourth Day Speakers Needed

Would you like to give a Fourth Day talk at a Gathering? Fourth Day speakers are always needed! Please contact Steven Scott at laydirector@austinemmaus.org if you are interested.



Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.



The above board meeting will be held at
St. Mark UMC

Greater Austin Emmaus Reunion Groups

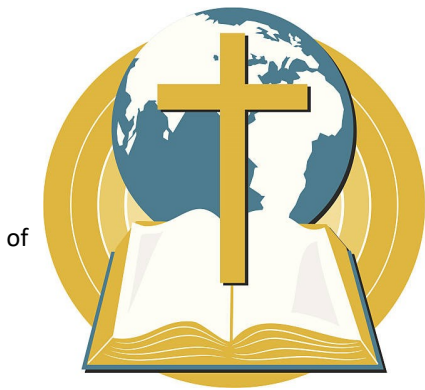
Looking for a reunion group?

Want to add a new group?

Need to update info on an existing group?

Send information to the Reunion Group/POC Support person

ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org.



Holy Spirit

We started last Sunday a new Sunday School lesson on Francis Chan's book titled "Forgotten God." In the first chapter in the book titled "I've got Jesus - Why Do I Need the **Holy Spirit**" he quotes 1Cor. 6:19-20 – "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the **Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." Francis says if it's true that the Spirit of God dwells in us, then shouldn't there be a huge difference between the person who has the Spirit of God living inside of them and the person who does not? That is a great question that made me stop and think about what I am doing that shows the Spirit of God is dwelling in me.

In Acts 2:1-4 – "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Francis stated that we see in Acts 2 that the **Holy Spirit's** power was unleashed like no one had ever seen or experience before and the promise that this **Holy Spirit** is available to anyone who believes. Then Francis says today we seem NOT TO expect the **Holy Spirit** to act in our lives.

That got me thinking of the times I have seen the **Holy Spirit** work in my life. How I have been delayed for 45 minutes to get our food at a Taco Bell after a UT game when I was heading back home to Houston on Highway 71 and missed a broadside collision by another car that hit the car in front of me. I was near enough to be there to see the collision and call the police. Then another car came and hit the car in the road and killed the person that hit the person broadside. I was thankful that we were not hit but sad for those in the accident. We tried to do our best for those that were hurt and helping the first responders.

Or the times I have seen the Lay Director and Assistant Lay Directors put people at tables and then sometimes changes them at the last minute for no apparent reason. When the pilgrims sit down and the team realizes the **Holy Spirit** moved people to be at the final tables on an Emmaus Walk because they have things in common with other people at that table.

Or the times I have felt I was in Heaven on an Emmaus walk with other fourth day even though I had been there before! Or the times I have seen people change over a three-day Emmaus Walk to feel God's love and give something to him that was holding them back and separating them from God. Every time I work an Emmaus Walk I feel the **Holy Spirit** there directing things. You too can feel that **Holy Spirit** by working an Emmaus Walk or being a sponsor to someone who has the opportunity to be a pilgrim on an Emmaus Walk to be changed by God. We have the Women's Walk #149 May 4-7 and need team members, sponsors, and pilgrims. Please consider letting the **Holy Spirit** act in your lives with the Walk to Emmaus! Forms are on the austinemmaus.org website. Also, we have a Gathering Saturday Jan. 21 at St. Mark UMC that you can come and feel the **Holy Spirit** there as we fellowship and worship together! Do not just be a faith community but be a faithful community.

With the HOPE of Jesus, we continue to step forward one day at a time. We need to expect the **Holy Spirit** to work in our lives. Thank you for all you are doing to keep HOPE alive! Stay connected to each other, your Church, and God. Continued blessings on you and all those around you.

De Colores!

Steven Scott, Lay Director

Testimony from Ann Montgomery



Hello Greater Austin Emmaus Community,

My name is Ann Montgomery. I went on Walk #51 in October, 1999 in Allenspark, Colorado and sat at the Table of Martha.

I grew up as the middle of nine children in Louisville, Kentucky. Hard to imagine that in today's world. My father passed away at age 43 from a heart attack due to an untreated heart-strep infection in France in WWII. My mom remarried a man with four children (she had four as well); thus, we became the real-life version of The Brady Bunch. My mother was a nurse, and my stepfather worked at Ford Motor Company on the line. My grandparents also lived with us, and Grandma – well – she led me to the Lord.

Grandma (Frances was her name) went to the Baptist church three times a week - at Sunday morning service, Sunday evening service, and Wednesday night Fellowship dinner. Every week. Grandpa drove her and dropped her off, never going inside to participate. I was about seven years old when I started tagging along with Grandma to all three services every week. Many of my siblings joined as well. Grandma then coordinated with the church to have the church bus come to our neighborhood and pick up children to take to church on Sunday mornings. As you might imagine, in this middle-class neighborhood where most parents worked, children were waiting along the street on Sunday mornings (put out there by their parents). Our church had a fabulous elementary and youth ministry program.

When I was nine years old, Brother Bill was leading the service, and we were singing the hymn of Invitation at the end of the service. I believe we were on Verse ~27 (that's a joke) of "Just As I Am" when I walked forward down the aisle to share with our pastor that "I have never felt closer to God". He asked if I wanted to repent of my sins and accept Jesus as my Savior. I heartedly agreed. I was baptized by full immersion in that Sunday night service, and I could see Grandma smiling ear-to-ear. She was so delighted and proud of me. I can't wait to see that smile again in heaven.

I devoured the Bible after that, reading the New Testament, "The Good Word," and memorizing scripture. Oh how I prayed! I loved going to church with Grandma and singing gospel songs. Looking back on my conversion, the words of Amazing Grace ring in my ears and mind – "How precious did that Grace appear, the hour I first believed." Fresh faith is genuinely majestic to experience!

When I attended the Walk to Emmaus as a Pilgrim, it was like a do-over of my first faith months... His Grace was so present and clear. I could see how His prevenient Grace had been with me all along, and a newfound relationship with the Holy Spirit was created. "Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love."

My life has not been easy, but oh, how I have been blessed. I have never been alone; He resides in me. My career and life as a single mom who has adopted two children from China and Vietnam has been challenging. "To Love as Christ Loves" has been my life motto. I fail again and again, and His mercy is fresh every morning.

It is a pleasure to be part of the Greater Austin Emmaus Community and serve as Upper Room Support and Communications Support (temporary) on our Board of Directors. Please drop me a note to say hello and let me know how I may serve you.

DeColores!

Ann Montgomery

Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors

| Position | Name | Term Ends | Contact |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lay Director | Steven Scott | 2023 | LayDirector@austinemmaus.org |
| Assistant Lay Director | OPEN | 2023 | AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org |
| Past Lay Director | Steven Scott | 2023 | PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org |
| Secretary | Harold Sundbeck | 2023 | Secretary@austinemmaus.org |
| Treasurer | Rick Seifert | 2023 | Treasurer@austinemmaus.org |
| Upper Room Support | Ann Montgomery | 2025 | UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org |
| Communications Support | Ann Montgomery (Temporary) | 2025 | Communications@austinemmaus.org |
| Walk Support | Jeanne Randall | 2023 | WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org |
| Gathering Support | Gene McConnell | 2025 | Gathering@austinemmaus.org |
| Spiritual Director | Rev. Sylvester Chase | 2024 | SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org |
| Team Selection Support | OPEN | 2024 | TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org |
| Reunion Group/POC Support | OPEN | 2025 | ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org |
| Database/Website Support | Christian Nelson | 2024 | DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org |

Term Expiration 2023-3, 2024-3 & 2025—4 (* indicates newly filled position)

Top three Directors expire every year. Officer roles and terms expire on May 31st of the above years.


Non-Board Positions

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Music Coordinator | *Randy Nettles | Music@austinemmaus.org |
| Assistant Music Coordinator | Jesse Madera | AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org |
| Registrar | Myles McKemie | Registrar@austinemmaus.org |
| Website Developer | Eric Bursley | WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org |
| WalkTalk Editor | Ann Montgomery—temporary | Communications@austinemmaus.org |

Emmaus Sunday!

Don't forget!

The first Sunday of each month is Emmaus Sunday. Wear your cross and lanyard to worship. This is a great opportunity to help bring




Financial Statement
as of 12/31/22
Bank Balance
\$21,741.63
Scholarship Fund
\$3390.61

GAEC Website

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

GAEC Facebook page

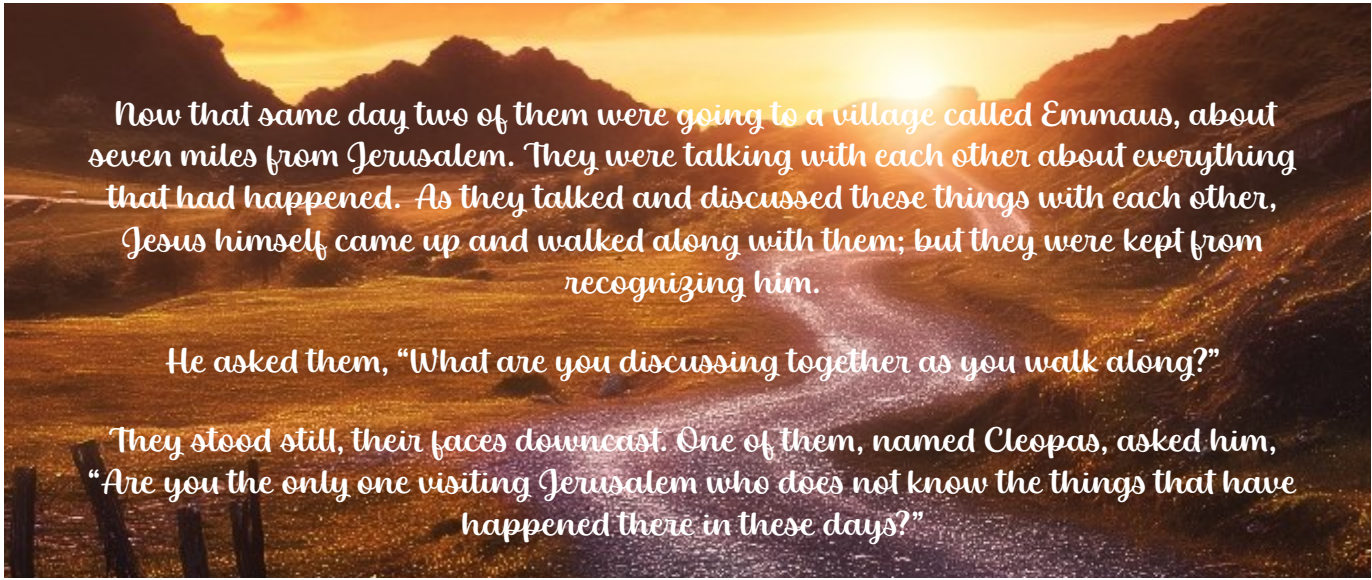
www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/

Our Last Gathering November 19, 2022

Our November 19 Gathering was an in-person gathering at Lake Travis UMC. The weather was cold and rainy that day, but Lake Travis provided a warm potluck for the fourth day with food and drinks at 5:00 pm! The worship was at 6:15pm with the format for the gathering similar to what we have been doing.

We had songs before announcements and songs during worship. We had communion and Cary Boddeker was the Fourth Day speaker. We enjoyed his testimony. Randy Nettles provided an AMAZING worship service!

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Gathering.



Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"



The *WalkTalk* deadline is the 20th of each month. Items received after that will be printed only if space is available.

Communications@austinemmaus.org

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2022

The November Board Meeting was held in person and by call-in at Lake Travis UMC. Steven opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The following members were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Christian Nelson, Database/Website Support; Gene McConnell, Gathering Support (by call-in), Jeanne Randall, Walk Support, (by call-in). Absent: Rev. Sylvester Chase, Spiritual Director, Ann Montgomery, Upper Room Support, Mel Chambers, Assistant Upper Room Support: Rick Seifert, Treasurer.

QUORUM: Three Board members were present and two by Call-in providing a quorum for the meeting.

MINUTES:

REPORTS - The following officers, directors, or other persons presented reports to the Board of Directors, with any items discussed or actions taken as noted below. The following items were discussed:

LAY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Steven Scott reported there are currently four open positions on the Board: Team Selection Support, Reunion Group/POC Support, Assistant Lay Director and a permanent Communications Support. Steven will request the community get involved and fill the open positions at the Gathering scheduled for today.

Steven made a motion to approve the updated Job Description to make three positions optional; Assistant Upper Room Support effective Dec. 1, Assistant Walk Support (Agape) and add the roles to the Walk Support persons role, and Training Support, and to add a Registrar Job Description to the list for the Board to review that is in line with the Upper Room standards. Jeanne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Steven has been in discussion with the Emmaus group in the Canyon Lake area about the possibility of working with us in the future.

Eight people have agreed to have their applications and payments transferred from Women's Walk #148 to the new Women's Walk #149 on May 4-7, 2023.

Steven has reserved with Eagle's Wings Retreat Center for the dates of May 4-7, 23 for Women's Walk #149 and Nov. 2-5, 23 for Men's Walk #150. The deposit has been paid for Women's Walk #149 in the amount of \$4,750.

Steven is continuing to work on the curriculum to be able to provide additional training for the prospective LD's, ALD's, BR's, and SD's in the near future. Steven will send it out to the Board for review soon.

The next Board meeting will be January 21, 2023 at 3:00 PM at St. Mark's UMC.

GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT – Rick Seifert submitted the Treasurer's report by email and was approved by email. His report indicated the Frost Bank balance reconciled with the Aplos balance of \$26,707.81.

UPPER ROOM/ASST. SUPPORT – N/A.

DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT – Christian will work with the Database/Walk template committee for our 2023 Walks.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT – Ann Montgomery worked with Steven to create the November Walk Talk. Ann did a great job on her first WalkTalk! Thanks to Rick for getting it out this morning! An will continue to temporarily help to do the WalkTalk and MailChimp messaging while we are seeking a permanent person for the position.

WALK/ASST. WALK SUPPORT – Jeanne needs the names and positions to finish the prep for Walk #149. The Sign-up agape list and the 72-hour Prayer Vigil need to be redone for the new Women's Walk #149 on May 4-7, 2023 and sent out.

GATHERING SUPPORT – Lake Travis UMC is hosting the Gathering today. Our first potluck dinner since the pandemic will be at 5:00pm. Worship will be at 6:15pm. with Myles McKemie as the 4th day speaker.

The next In-person Gathering is on Jan. 21, 2023, at St. Mark's UMC at 6:15pm. with food at 5:00pm.

REUNION GROUP/POC SUPPORT - Steven will request info today at the gathering on Reunion Groups.

NEW BUSINESS – Steven will work on updating the By-Laws in the future.

OLD BUSINESS – We still need to find a back-up treasurer.

WalkTalk Articles – Steven will provide an article for the WalkTalk along with Ann providing an article for the January WalkTalk and Jeanne for the March WalkTalk.

Christian closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



Greater Austin Emmaus Community

GAEC Community Gathering

January 21, 2023

St. Mark United Methodist Church

601 W. Braker Lane

Austin, TX 78753

5:00pm – Pot Luck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:15pm – Music and Worship in the Sanctuary

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

4TH Day Please Bring First Letter of Last Name:

A – F: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

G – N: Main Dishes

O – Z: Desserts

Fourth Day Speaker is Michael Pavlu

If questions, please contact Gene McConnell @ 512-567-1118

gene.mcconnell@yahoo.com