



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



March, 2007

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 18, Number 3

Important Information

Women's Walk #1355
March 8 - 11, 2007
Highland Lakes

Candlelight

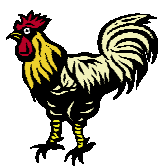
Singing starts at 7:30
Worship starts at 8:00
Childcare available

Closing:

Community arrives at 3:00
Pilgrims arrive at 3:30

** NOTE: Due to the fire in November that destroyed Miles Auditorium, we're not sure what facility we'll be using for Candlelight, but will have extra people directing traffic.

Also as a result of the fire, Highland Lakes' insurance carrier requires no real candles be used inside any of HLCCC buildings. GAEC has battery-powered candles for Candlelight use.



Welcome Back for Pilgrims, Sponsors and Team is set for Thursday, March 15th, 7:00 p.m., at Westlake UMC, 1460 Red Bud Trail.

Maximizing a Pilgrim's Walk Experience

Along with Emmaus brothers and sisters from Austin, Hays Praise, ABC, and Hondo 4th Day Groups, I attended the Emmaus Leadership Training Seminar (ELTS) held at NW Hills UMC on February 17. Basically the ELTS is designed to highlight the main points in the Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus, the Team Manual and the SWTx Conference Policies and Procedures Manual. Most of the points covered dealt specifically with Walk leadership issues, but others touched on local community guidelines, and those are what I want to address here:

- (1) In order for each pilgrim to have his/her own Walk experience, there should be no more pilgrims from any one church than there are tables in the conference room. If s/he is at a table with others from their church, then s/he may not feel free to share what is on his/her heart. (A full Walk of 36 pilgrims = 6 tables.)
- (2) No pilgrim or team member is to be singled out; i.e. no special recognition, no birthday cupcakes, no agape with family pictures. God sees all of us as equals, and for this special weekend, the Emmaus community is called to join that vision.
- (3) Emmaus calls for anonymous servanthood, and those of us who prepare gifts of agape are asked to join those quiet servants. We are asked to not put our personal names on the gifts; instead, give agape in the name of your reunion group, or your church.
- (4) All Walks are to be essentially the same. No special "themes", no extreme decorations, foods or agape. The focus of the weekend is revealing God's incredible love, and creating an environment where each pilgrim has the opportunity to respond to that love. For those three days, nothing should draw their attention away from their relationship with God.
- (5) Teasing a pilgrim prior to a Walk weekend does not help them prepare spiritually; rather, it can create feelings of apprehension. Instead of teasing your pilgrim, pray with them; answer their questions honestly; assure them you will cover the home front while they are away. In line with this, ask pilgrims to leave their phones and watches at home - if something critical comes up, they can be contacted; however, don't make their phone a real issue.

There are many, many ways to serve God as a servant during a Walk to Emmaus weekend. However, let's always strive to put "self" aside and allow each pilgrim to have his/her own special week-end encounter with God.

De Colores,
Kathy Shaw, Lay Director, GAE4DG



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

Board of Directors

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The WalkTalk Deadline has been moved to the 25th of every month!!

The WalkTalk Deadline for April is March 25th!

Please send your articles, 4th Day Stories, and reflections to Gina Franklin
12905 Irongate Ave., Austin, TX 78727; or email to rts@austin.rr.com

Local Church Point of Contacts

The GAEC4DG Board has created a database of individuals who have been designated by their respective churches as the Point of Contact ("POC") for matters relating to GAE4CDG Emmaus activities. With this designation of an individual contact person within each church, the Board and the members of its Emmaus community will have another source for the exchange of information. A church's POC will be in addition to, and not in substitution of, all present information sources for GAEC4DG such as our existing web site, *WalkTalk* publications, or membership in our Yahoo community group. The POC of each church is requested to remind its members of the availability of these sources of information. Most churches have responded, and follow up requests for this information have been sent to those churches which have not to-date done so. Questions regarding the creation of a POC at a local church may be directed to Kathy Shaw, Community Lay Director (kathyshaw@swbell.net) and to Jim Anthony, Board Member for Gathering Support (jimanthony2@austin.rr.com).

Asbury UMC

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Bee Creek UMC

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St. Paul's/Haynie Chapel

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St. Peter UMC

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Light at the End of Your Path

Lent, a season to remember, is the 40 days (minus Sundays) before Jesus' glorious Easter resurrection in which Christians are encouraged to enter into a time of introspection, repentance, and meditation upon the sacrifice of Christ.

It is like a path with the glorious light of the resurrection at the end.

The purpose of Lent is not to make you feel guilty, but to help you *remember* -- not just the sins you commit each day and quickly forget, but God's all-sufficient provision for your sins. During Lent, you look into the pit of your transgression and then gaze up at the towering cross of Christ's sacrificial atonement.

The result of such remembrance should be a renewed gratitude -- and a lifestyle less encumbered by sin as you are spiritually empowered through God's amazing grace.

A hard question is: "Am I living a life that reflects the thankfulness I ought to have for the pain He endured for me, or, instead, is my life an insult to His memory?"

The good news is that *"He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all -- how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?"* (Rom 8:32). God not only forgives, but gives you the power to repent and live a life that glorifies Jesus.

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

Visit the Greater Austin Emmaus
4th Day Group Website:
<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Lent - What is it?

Lent is a time of preparation before Easter. It is time when we remember Jesus' 40 days in the desert when he resisted the temptations of this world. It is a time for us to make an effort to resist temptations of our own world for 40 days by either giving up something or taking something on.

We say that Lent lasts for 40 days and that's true. And if you count the calendar days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (the time of Lent) you will find more than 40 calendar days. That's because Sundays are never days of temptation, they are always days when we remember the resurrection and thank God in worship for all of God's good gifts. So Sunday's don't "count" towards the 40 days of Lent (although they REALLY count in God's economy of abundance).

Remember, Lent is a time to remember Jesus' time of temptation in the desert and make an effort to avoid temptation in our own lives. Lent is a great time to make a commitment to worship God every Sunday in Lent. Lent is a great time to make a commitment to God to steer clear of the normal temptations that cross your path. If you are a shopaholic, Lent is a great time to suspend shopping. If you are an alcoholic, Lent is a great time to ask for help.

Make a commitment during Lent. Come to worship, be willing to let God be your center during this season of preparation for Easter.

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2007 Austin Sponsored Walks

Women's Walk #1355 Highland Lakes	March 8 – 11	Susan Wilcox, Lay Director Sue Wells, Spiritual Director Kath Shaw, Board Rep.
Men's Walk #1387 Highland Lakes	Sept. 6 – 9	Dale Williams, Lay Director David Payne, Spiritual Director Bud Broeker, Board Rep.
Women's Walk #1409 Highland Lakes	Nov. 15 – 18	Nancy Minchew, Lay Director Cindy Layton, Spiritual Director Sherry Wilkison, Board Rep.

GAEC Member, would you like to say a few words to the community? You can write a brief message for the *WalkTalk*. Send your message to Gina by the 25th of each month!

Please send your articles, 4th Day Stories, and reflections to Gina Franklin, 12905 Irongate Ave., Austin, TX 78727; or email to rts@austin.rr.com

**As a child of God, prayer is kind
of like calling home everyday.**



Were You There?

There were 105 attendees at the February Gathering! Have you been going to the monthly Gathering? Why not?!?!? They are on the first Thursday of each month. Check out the schedule on Page 9!

We'll be looking for you!

Chrysalis News

It's time, it's time!! Time to round up this year's butterflies for the most awesome of adventures - a Chrysalis Flight!! All youth who are currently in 9th - 12th grades are invited to attend. The Austin Community is sponsoring three Flights this summer:

June 14-16: Girls' Flight # 276 at Concordia in Austin, Lay Director: Briana Roehling; Cost: \$160

July 12-15: Boys' Flight # 290 at Twin Oaks in Buda, Lay Director: Joel Roehling; Cost: \$140

Aug. 2-4: Girls' Flight # 295 at Twin Oaks in Buda, Lay Director: Debbie Sandifer; Cost: \$140

Registration forms are posted on the SWTX Conference and Greater Austin Emmaus Community websites, or you may contact one of the Lay Directors or any member of the Chrysalis Next Steps Group. Scholarships are available!

If you have any questions about the Flights, please contact Jennifer Kendrick, 241-1455 or jhkendrick@austin.rr.com

Fly with Christ!



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Monday, January 22nd at Crestview UMC. In attendance were Kathy Shaw, Beth Bible, Bud Broeker, and Nancy White.

Minutes – Kathy Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2007 meeting. Seconded by Nancy White, the motion was approved.

Treasurer – Mike Rhodes E-mailed the Treasurer's Report as of 19 February 2007.

General Balance 1/22/07	\$9,908
Gathering 2/1/2007	+220
General Balance 2/19/2007	\$10,128
Scholarship Balance	\$798
Data Base Mailing Fund Balance-	\$2,500

Bud Broeker made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Beth Bible, the motion was approved. There remain outstanding bills for electric candles of \$430 and batteries for them of \$280. Kathy Shaw asked for a spreadsheet showing monthly expenditures, and Bud Broeker agreed to provide one.

Board Representative – Beth Bible gave a report on the January Conference Board meeting.

There is again a Walk Lay Director application from conference, although it needs to be revised to correctly include prerequisites. Also a Lay Team Service Application is being developed by conference; the only current addition to our application is the willingness to serve on Walks farther than 100 miles away. More on both of these applications later.

The board approved the cancellation of our August Walk, and the change of the September and November Walks GAE4DG Board reps. The board reiterated that a third member of the Walk Music team must have zero music team experience.

Beth Bible presented the Team Selection Committee report for the September 2007 Men's Walk #1387. Kathy Shaw moved that it be accepted. Nancy White seconded the motion and it passed. Additions to the Walk #1387 team are Barry Day, Music Team, and Sherry Wilkison, Servant Team Coordinator.

Lay Director – Kathy Shaw reported that the ELTS on 17 February had 22 attendees and was very informative; many thanks to NW Hills UMC for hosting the meeting. Items of particular interest were related to the maintenance of the cloistered environment of the Walk: 1) The candlelight clergy must not be one of the Walk clergy; 2) an ALD is not to leave the conference room to give a Walk report at Candlelight; 3) team members are not to be asked to step in should a speaker not be able to give his/her talk. In that event, the Walk Board Rep reads the talk that had been prepared and previewed for that Walk; and 4) Wherever the pilgrims are gathered for a Walk activity (i.e. the conference room, the chapel) the Walk Lay Director, Spiritual Director, and Board Rep must also be present. The conference board lay director also reminded us that "Welcome Back" meetings are not optional, and must be held.

At the board's direction, Bud Broeker will present proposed by-law amendments approved by previous board decisions.

The following amendments will be presented for a vote at the March Gathering: (See Page 8 for amendments)

1. Add the Walk Board Representative to the Team Selection Committee.
2. Add the GAE4DG Lay Director to the Team Selection Committee.
3. Add the treasurer as a voting member of the board.

A simple majority of those present at the GAE4DG Gathering shall be needed to adopt the amendments.

Assistant Lay Director – Bud Broeker indicated that the Nominations Committee is being formed and will be finalized by the March Gathering. The committee will have between six and eight members in addition to the Assistant Lay Director (Chairperson) and will define candidates for six board openings. Specific positions on the board are decided at the first board meeting.

Chrysalis – Nancy White reported that team selection is complete for the 2007 flights. We may not been diligent in transferring 10% of our quarterly Gathering offerings to the Chrysalis treasury. Kathy Shaw will check on this. We will have a board discussion in March on how much to give to Chrysalis when they host/hold our Gathering.

Board Member/Member Services – No report.

Board Member/Gathering Support – No report.

Board Member/Walk Support – Nancy White indicated that the upcoming March Walk Agape support is in good shape. The location of candlelight is still undecided, pending completion of the tabernacle at HLCC.

Old Business – The discussion continued on the opportunity to put a storage trailer at HLCC to hold Walk supplies. Bud Broeker reported that the options are narrowing for a new all steel 6x12 trailer for \$3000, or a 7x16 trailer for \$3600. Bud will follow up and try for a better deal and e-mail the board on results.

New Business – None.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM following a prayer by Beth Bible.

Respectfully Submitted. Bud Broeker

Austin Chrysalis Board Minutes

January 23, 2007

In Attendance – Jennifer Kendrick, Nancy White, Darren Mock, Joel Roehling, Briana Roehling, Kevin Fowler, Sandy Brooks, Tanya Eustace, Jordan Treuter, David Weaver, Kathy Boothby, Debbie Sandifer, and Paul LeBlanc.

Minutes – Board minutes from the November 28th meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Policy –

- A new policy from the Upper Room was discussed, which requires the Spiritual Director the Board must be an ordained Elder and have been a Spiritual Director on a Flight in the past. It was unclear as to how this requirement applies to non-Methodist clergy; as they do not all use the same ordination terminology.
- It was agreed that the Board would comply with this requirement, and would submit a list of names to Kyle Toomire. He had volunteered to contact clergy members on behalf of the Board to seek a person that would agree to serve as Spiritual Director of the Next Steps Board. The Board submitted six (6) names of ordained Elders, which Kyle will then contact.

Treasurer's Report – David Weaver filed the following report:

- As of now, we have \$4,305.72 in the bank account
- Based on the recommendation of the small subcommittee charged with evaluating bank options, it was approved that we change banks to Compass Bank as soon as is practical.

Hoot –

- The Hoot was a great time.
- Childcare was discussed in detail, and it was agreed that we should provide childcare at Hoots, and that should be publicized better in the future.
- We also need to encourage people to limit the number of pizza slices they have, until all have a chance to get some.

Austin Emmaus Liaison – Nancy White filed this report from the Austin Emmaus Community:

- The August Women's Walk has been cancelled.
- No decision has yet been made about sharing funds or trailer with Chrysalis Community.

Conference Board Business –

- The Board discussed a 2007 Letter of Agreement from the International Chrysalis Office; some changes include the following items:
 1. A person other than the Treasurer must inspect the financial records.
 2. An additional fee of \$7 per butterfly will be charged and will go to costs of the International Chrysalis Community.
 3. Every Flight must have a licensed doctor or nurse on team, who is to be present at all times.
 4. We need to rework Flight application to include a separate medical form
 5. All team members must watch a Child-Youth Safety video prior to the flight
 6. All Flight Board Reps must be a member from the Next Steps Board, and not simply a past lay director.
- All in attendance signed the Letter.
- An executive committee will discuss how to implement the new financial oversight requirement. Tanya Eustace will coordinate the safety video.
- Cheri Riddle needs our flight dates and leadership information. Jennifer will handle this.

Training – All flight leadership persons are required to attend training within 15 months of their flight. We will arrange a training session with a group from Boerne, possibly in February. More information will be discussed via email.

Team Selection –

- All teams for the summer 2007 Flights were reviewed and approved unanimously.
Flight Leadership will be:
June Girls Flight: LD – Briana Roehling; SD – Dana Hamilton; BR – Sandy Brooks
July Boys Flight: LD – Joel Roehling; SD – James Amerson; BR – Jon Weems
August Girls Flight: LD – Debbie Sandifer; SD – Cheryl Broome; BR – Jennifer Kendrick

Next Board Meeting – The next meeting will be **Tuesday**, February 27th at 7pm at Northwest Hills UMC.

These Minutes were approved by the Board on February 27, 2007.

[Respectfully submitted by Kevin Fowler]

Amendment #1 – Add the Walk Board Rep to the Team Selection Committee
Current: Article V, Section 7. The Team Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall consist of the 4th Day Board Representative as Chairperson, the Spiritual Director, the Walk Lay Director, the Walk Spiritual Director, and five or six members of the GAE4DG.
New: Article V, Section 7. The Team Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall consist of the Board Representative as Chairperson, the Spiritual Director, the Walk Lay Director, the Walk Spiritual Director, the Walk Board Representative, and five or six members of the GAE4DG.
Amendment #2 - Add the GAE4DG Lay Director to the Team Selection Committee
Current: Article V, Section 7. The Team Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall consist of the Board Representative as Chairperson, the Spiritual Director, the Walk Lay Director, the Walk Spiritual Director, the Walk Board Representative, and five or six members of the GAE4DG.
New: Article V, Section 7. The Team Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall consist of the Board Representative as Chairperson, the Spiritual Director, the Walk Lay Director, the Walk Spiritual Director, the Walk Board Representative, the GAE4DG Lay Director and five or six members of the GAE4DG.
Amendment #3 – Add the Treasurer as a voting member of the board
Current: Article V, Section 4. The seven voting members of the GAE4DG Board of Directors shall be as follows: 1. Lay Director, 2. Assistant Lay Director, 3. Board Member for Member Services, 4. Board Member for Gathering Support, 5. Board Member for Walk Support, 6. 4th Day Board Representative, and 7. Spiritual Director. Etc
New: Article V, Section 4. The seven voting members of the GAE4DG Board of Directors shall be as follows: 1. Lay Director, 2. Assistant Lay Director, 3. Board Member for Member Services, 4. Board Member for Gathering Support, 5. Board Member for Walk Support, 6. Conference Board Representative, 7. Treasurer, and 8. Spiritual Director. Etc

Emmaus Leadership Training Sessions

To register for an Emmaus Leadership Training Event please contact the person listed below or go to www.swtxumc.org/emmas

Date	Location	Area	Contact
March 24	First Christian Church 1900 Goat Creek Parkway	Kerrville	Bobby Zirkel bobbyz@hctc.net
April 14	First UMC 1101 Bluebonnet	Marble Falls	Bob Spickelmier rspickel@yahoo.com
May 19	First UMC 219 S. Magnolia	Luling	Joe Svobova jsvobova@bcsnet.net
July 7	TBA	Junction	Wanda Teel dwteel@verizon.net
August 4	First UMC 37 East Beauregard Ave	San Angelo	Keith Mortimore keith.mortimore@cox.net
*September 22	TBA	Corpus Christi	
October 6	John Wesley UMC 8300 NE Zac Lentz Pkwy	Victoria	Gerald Ripple ripple3@sbcglobal.net
November 10	Harlingen: Wesly UMC 1406 E. Austin Ave	Valley	Diane Bleibdrey dibleibs@sbcglobal.net

* Tentive date

From The Database Coordinator

Help us keep our database current! Notify us of address, phone number, etc. changes. And don't forget to let us know of new pilgrims or butterflies that you sponsor, so they can be included in the database!

Tom Rioux
422-8682
rioux@mail.utexas.edu

Lay Directors!

Emmaus and Chrysalis Lay Directors, before your walk/flight weekend, it is **YOUR** responsibility to send your **team list** to the *WalkTalk* Editor to be printed so that we can all be in prayer for them. And when your walk/flight weekend is over, it is **YOUR** responsibility to send your **pilgrim/ butterfly list** to Tom Rioux, Database Coordinator, and again to the *WalkTalk*, so we can welcome them as new pilgrims!.

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Singing at 7:00 p.m., Worship at 7:30 p.m., Agape Feast Following

April **

Thursday, April 12, 2007
Wesley UMC
1160 Bernard
Speaker: TBA

September

Thursday, September 6, 2007
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road
Speaker: TBA

May

Thursday, May 3, 2007
Hyde Park UMC
4001 Speedway
Speaker: Chrysalis

October

Thursday, October 4, 2007
Tarrytown UMC
2601 Exposition
Speaker: Carey Dietert

June **

Thursday, June 14, 2007
Oak Hill UMC
7815 Hwy. 290 W.
Speaker: TBA

November

Thursday, November 1, 2007
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill Road
Speaker: Chrysalis

July

Thursday, July 5, 2007
St. Marks UMC
601 W. Braker Lane
Speaker: Gene McConnell

December

Thursday, December 6, 2007
TBA

August

Thursday, August 2, 2007
Manchaca UMC
FM 1626 & Manchaca Rd.
Speaker: TBA

** Date Change

For directions click on Church Links at
<http://www.austinemmaus.org>