



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



April, 2008

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 19, Number 4

Welcome New Pilgrims

Men's Walk #1425
March 6-9, 2008
Highland Lakes

- Robert Batch
- Mike Bryant
- Don Busby
- Ronald Christensen
- Casey Conner
- David Courtright
- Richard Ginsberg
- Terry Godbold
- Brent Graham
- John David Griffin
- Kent Heath
- Blair LaFleur
- Bruce McEachran
- Robert Miller
- Kevin Osborne
- Stephen Parker
- Paul Roberts
- Vearlan Robertson
- David Schmidt
- Norman Schoenfeld
- Allen Updike
- Ronald Webb
- Marc Wiz

Changes, Changes, Changes

The Gatherings for June and July are not on the first Thursday of the month, but on the second Thursday. The first week of June is the time for the annual United Methodist conference in Corpus Christi. Since the purpose of the Emmaus movement is to develop leaders in the Church, it is no surprise that so many of the Emmaus Community are indeed leaders of their church and will be out of town the first Thursday. This is a yearly occurrence and we delay the June gathering each year. July, however, is unusual this year in that the Independence Day holiday is the day after the first Thursday and the start of a three day holiday. Therefore, because so many of our folks are expected to be going away that weekend, we decided to delay the Gathering until the next week.

The men's Walk, #1425 had a total of 23 pilgrims and didn't "make" until the deadline day two weeks before the start of the Walk. Thanks to a number of pilgrims from outside of GAE4DG allowed the Walk to go on. We are facing a perhaps similar situation for the women's Walk #1435 starting on May 1, 2008. As of March 24 we had only 13 pilgrims signed up. This is somewhat unusual in that women's walks usually fill up far earlier than men's Walks. So – if you have potential pilgrims you plan on sponsoring in the near future, get going and sign them up.

The new web site is up and rolling, and if you haven't seen it yet, take a look at www.austinemmaus.org. The on line registry of Reunion groups is operational and so far thirteen Reunion groups have been registered. It is extremely easy to register a group, so if you are the group contact, why not register your group? In fact, you don't have to be the contact, or coordinator, or head, or manager, or groupmaster or whatever, as long as you know the contact's email address.

You might also want to join our Yahoo Groups so you get monthly Gathering reminders, news, and walk/candlelight updates. Go to www.yahoo.com and follow the instructions. Our group name, not surprisingly, is AustinEmmaus.

De Colores
Bud Broeker, Lay Director, Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

Celebration of Walk to Emmaus! April 4-6, 2008

The 25th Anniversary Celebration of Walk to Emmaus in the Southwest Texas Conference is **April 4-6, 2008** at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville. Hope to see you there! More information on page 3.

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2007/2008 Board of Directors and Volunteers

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



The Walk Talk Deadline for May is April 20th!

Please send your articles, 4th Day Stories,
Group appreciation and reflections to
Gina Franklin 12905 Irongate Ave., Austin, TX 78727;
or email to franklingdom@gmail.com

Were You There?

Have you been going to the monthly Gathering?

Why not?!?!?!?

They are normally on the first Thursday of each month.
Childcare is available at all Gatherings! Check out the
schedule on page 8!

We'll be looking for you!

SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE EMMAUS/CHRYSALIS CELEBRATION 2008
Celebrating 25 years of Emmaus and Chrysalis
within the Southwest Texas Conference

Did you know that SWTC was one of the original Emmaus Communities to be established by the Upper Room? Did you know that SWTC Emmaus Community is one of the largest (if not the largest) Emmaus communities in the world? Did you know that in 2007 there were 300 Emmaus Walks held in the United States, and 66 of those were held right here in the SWTC Emmaus Community? That's why we are celebrating!!

When: April 4-6, 2008

Where: Mount Wesley, Kerrville

Cost: \$50 Registration Fee covers workshops/materials/5 meals

\$60 Lodging fee for 2 nights, 4 people per cabin/room (same sex)

Note: It is suggested that families and/or couples who don't want to be separated reserve accommodations at one of the many area hotels.

There will be dinner and worship on Friday night. Saturday there will be 3 meals plus two worship times and opportunities to attend 4 workshops/trainings pertaining to Emmaus/Chrysalis. Sunday there will be breakfast, a plenary recap, and a final worship service. This event is open to anyone, whether or not they have been on a Walk/Flight. There are planned activities for children ages 3-15.

For more information and a registration form, go to the SWTC website: www.umcswtx.org Click on "links" then click on Southwest Texas Conference Emmaus Walks. That will bring up the page with information about the celebration.

Hope to see you at the party! Kathy Shaw GAE4DG Board Representative

WALK WITH JESUS #12
April 18 – 20, 2008

A Walk With Jesus #12 will be held April 18 - April 20 at the Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio, TX in a modified Kairos style designed for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and other Special Needs community. We have several folks from Austin area serving on this team: Melissa Boaz, Cheryle Curtis, Robin Grace, Maja Nipper, and Jeanne Heffern.

The Walk to Emmaus has had a powerful impact on many Christians. Twelve years ago in 1996 at the Methodist Mission Home, in San Antonio, Texas, staff and friends of staff began sharing the incredible power of agape love with low functioning deaf and hard of hearing clients, many of whom have multiple handicaps and special needs. They call it "Walk with Jesus". These pioneers began their task, knowing that some or most of their potential Walkers were not capable of comprehending many of the facets of the Walk to Emmaus. They have worked together to design an Emmaus-like experience intended to be on the level of understanding of the Walkers.

The Walkers have heard some of the stories about Jesus, but to have God's love and grace presented in such a direct fashion takes them to a new dimension. Many have been denied access to traditional church worship and even Sunday school because of their limitations and challenges. They hunger for this message. As a result a program has evolved that allows the Deaf, hard of hearing and the Special Needs alike to begin their faith journey. No limits due to understanding, no barriers of language, or lack of energy stand in the way of opening this door to some of God's hungriest and thirstiest children.

How can others share the blessings we have received? One answer is to serve on the team for Walk with Jesus. For many the answer will be to support with prayers the Walkers and the team. For others, the answer may be to offer agape. However you feel led to participate, we ask you to join us. If your reunion group, church, or your Sunday school class wishes to contribute to this walk, we still can use place mats and agape for dining area (44-45 pc.) We also welcome snack foods and drinks donated for the weekend. If you are interested in contributing in any way, please contact Jeanne Heffern at jhheffern@yahoo.com for more information.

LOCAL LAY DIRECTOR ORIENTATION(LLDO)

April 12, 2008

8:30a-12:30p

First United Methodist Church, Pflugerville

If you are scheduled to serve as a GAE4DG Walk Lay Director in 2008 or 2009; if you are interested in serving as a Walk LD at some time in the future; or if you are just really curious about what it takes for an Emmaus Walk to happen, please plan to attend this Local Lay Director Orientation (LLDO) on April 12. The LLDO focuses on local (GAE) Walk details and issues, site specifics, and local Board support. Although the LLDO is not mandatory, your GAE4DG Board strongly urges that upcoming Walk LDs and BdReps attend - you'll get a wealth of helpful information, and many of your questions will be answered.

Note: This training does NOT replace the Emmaus Leadership Training Seminars (ELTS) which are conducted by the Southwest Texas Conference Emmaus Community and are mandatory for Walk Lay Directors, Board Reps, and Spiritual Directors.

If you have questions, please get in touch with Kathy Shaw at 989-3866.

2008 Austin Sponsored Walks

Women's Walk #1435
Highland Lakes

May 1 - 4

Anne Rioux, Lay Director
Sue Wells, Spiritual Director
Tonna Marcyes, Board Rep.

Women's Walk #1451
Highland Lakes

Sept. 11 - 14

Belinda Smith, Lay Director
Cheryl Broom, Spiritual Director
Leslie Smith, Board Rep.

Men's Walk #1456
Highland Lakes

Sept. 25 - 28

Randy Nettles, Lay Director
Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director
TBD, Board Rep.

Grace Creates Faith

Not only do we contend that Christians are justified before God by grace, we assert that God's grace even works to create faith in the believer. By grace alone, God acts through Christ alone to justify humankind. And this gracious act is appropriated by faith alone. Human beings receive justification as a gift from God.

Therefore, Article V of the Augsburg Confession, "Concerning the Office of Preaching," says the gospel and the sacraments are means by which God gives this grace. God's word is threefold. Jesus Christ is the Word of God -- the Word made flesh, John 1:14.

The Bible is the word of God -- the written record of God's saving action, expressed in Christ's life, death and resurrection. Biblical preaching is God's word -- when someone proclaims the gospel, whether formally or informally. God's word, understood in this multiple way, is ultimately the proclamation of God's grace.

In addition, the grace revealed in Christ comes through the sacraments of baptism and communion. These two sacraments, instituted by Jesus, connect the gospel of forgiveness to physical elements. They are concrete and physical expressions of grace. And it is this grace that creates faith.

Theologian Joseph Sittler had his car repaired in Israel. When the car was running properly, the mechanic pronounced the car *Zedec* (Hebrew for "righteous"). Sittler summed it up: "It is righteous when it does what it is made to do, what it was intended to do. Righteousness means to get rid of the gunk which is standing in the way of what God intended...."

We believe people were created to have faith in Christ and this faith alone makes us righteous, justifies us. Put simply, with words penned by Paul, confessed at Augsburg in 1530 and affirmed by Lutherans worldwide, we deem this to be the key to the Scriptures: "We hold that we are justified by faith, apart from works of the law."

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

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 two Flights this summer:

**July 10-13: Girls' Flight # 305 at Twin Oaks in Buda,
Lay Director: Briana Roehling; Cost: \$140**

**July 24-27: Boys' Flight # 309 at Twin Oaks in Buda,
Lay Director: Kevin Fowler; 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!

SWTX Emmaus Leadership Training Sessions

To register for an Emmaus Leadership Training Event please go to www.swtxumc.org/emmaus or contact Emmaus Register at Emmaus@umcswtx.org

Date: May 10, 2008

Location: San Angelo: First UMC

Date: June 21, 2008

Location: Luling

Date: August 16, 2008

Location: Corpus Christi

Date: September 27, 2008

Location: Kerrville

Date: October 4, 2008

Location: Victoria

Date: November 15, 2008

Location: Austin



Purpose: Training Lay Directors, Board Reps and Spiritual Directors Leadership teams for the Walks to Emmaus. The ELTS (Emmaus Leadership Training) is required for all incoming Lay Directors and Board Reps and Spiritual Directors. Lay Directors and Board Reps need to attend training within 15 months of serving, Spiritual Directors need to attend training at least once every 3 years. However ELT is open to anyone interested in learning more about Emmaus Leadership. This is a great time for the Lay Directors, Board Reps, and Spiritual Directors to develop effective Communication and Leadership skills. The outside support coordinators are invited to attend as well. Training will be conducted by the Southwest Texas Conference Emmaus Lay Director and Spiritual Director or their appointees.

Here is a praise report and prayer request from Jim Limpp:

Speaking of faithfulness, here is a praise report and prayer request about someone you may never have heard of before, but yet he is someone through whom our God accomplished GREAT things. Please praise God for the life of Eduardo Bonnin, and pray for peace for his friends and family members, who are now mourning his passing. Here is just a little bit about him and how our Lord used his life.

Eduardo Bonnin, commonly regarded as the founder of Cursillos in Christianity, died this past February 6, 2008 at the age of 90. It is fitting that he, a devout Roman Catholic all his life, died on a day very important to his faith, Ash Wednesday. His life was filled with humble servanthood and evangelism. God used him to found a world-wide movement called Cursillo that has brought many men and women into relationship with Jesus Christ and to follow a rule in life of piety, study, and action. It is truly amazing what one person, and a lay person at that, can be used by God to do, when the person truly opens himself up to God's purpose for his life. De Colores! Read more at <http://www.natl-cursillo.org/eduardo/eduardo.pdf>

Our current Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Cursillo (pronounced cur-SEE-o) movement, which originated in Spain in 1949. Cursillo de Cristianidad means 'little course in Christianity.' The original Cursillo leaders designed the program to empower persons to transform their living and working environments into Christian environments. During the 1960's and 1970's, the Episcopalians and Lutherans, along with several non-denominational groups, such as Tres Dias, began to offer Cursillo. In 1978, The Upper Room of the General Board of Discipleship adapted the program for a primarily Protestant audience and began to offer it under the name The Upper Room Cursillo. In 1981, The Upper Room made further adaptations and changed the name of the program to The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus. In 1984, The Upper Room developed a youth expression of Emmaus called Chrysalis.

Submitted by Tom Rioux

Emmaus Walk 1435

Women's Walk #1435 will take place May 1-4th, at Highland Lakes.

Please support this Walk with your prayers, your agape, and your presence at Candlelight and Closing. Please keep these team members in your prayers, and remember, there are many unseen and unsung community members working on the Servant Team!

Team Members

Jenn Anderson

Beth Bible

Glenda Born

Teddy Broeker

Monte Jane Buaas

Sandy Farnham

Joan King

Diane Lee

Tonna Marcyes - BR

Hilary Martin

Judi Mayne

Renee Morris

Tami Pharr

Anne Rioux - LD

Annette Robinson

Valerie Sansing

Mollie Schluter

Terri Sloan

Cortney Smith

Liz Stewart

Lee Sundbeck

Pat Thomas

Terri Twomey

Sue Wells - SD

Susan Wilcox

Please pray for the pilgrims! As of 03/27/08, there is 15 pilgrims signed up for this Walk. Extra prayers for more are appreciated. If you have potential pilgrims to sponsor, sign them up

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Monday, March 3, 2008, at Pflugerville First UMC. In attendance were:

Bud Broeker, Lay Director	Georgia Stone, Spiritual Director
Leslie Smith, Assistant Lay Director	Kathy Shaw, Board Rep
Mike Rhodes, Treasurer	Jack Foreman, Gathering Support
Wayne Roche, Member Services	

Bud Broeker called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Georgia Stone.

Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2008 meeting was approved. (Kathy Shaw motion, Mike Rhodes second)

Treasurer – Mike Rhodes gave the following report:

	General
Balance as of 1/31/08	\$2530.78
New Balance as of 2/29/08	\$5108.27
Total not earmarked	\$ 784.27
Previous scholarship balance	\$1063.02
Quarterly distribution	+ 88.00
Scholarships	-110.00
New Balance as of 2/29/08	\$1041.02

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was approved. (Jack Foreman motion, Wayne Roche second)

The timing of payment for babysitting at Gatherings was discussed. Presently, checks are sent to the host church before the Gathering, but sometimes the babysitters expect payment that evening. In order to avoid paying twice, it was decided to go back to the former method, which is to pay the babysitters out of the offering received at the Gathering. (Wayne Roche motion, Georgia Stone second)

Board Member for Member Services – Wayne Roche has accepted a new job and will be moving out of state. He will be unable to serve as the Board Rep for the Walk in September. There was discussion of possible board representatives. Bud Broeker volunteered to take care of website entries.

Assistant Lay Director - Leslie Smith reported the nominating committee met on Feb. 28 at Northwest Hills UMC. Several people were nominated by the committee. Calls will need to be made to see if they are willing to serve on the Board. Since the committee was unaware that Wayne will be leaving, there were no nominees for that position. Jack Foreman expressed interest in changing to the Member Services position. He has experience in this field. It was discussed that the Member Services Board position does require technical experience. It was decided that Jack will switch to the Member Services position in June. Leslie said she will try to contact the additional people mentioned by the nominating committee for the Gathering Support position.

Board Member for Gathering Support – Jack Foreman reported that he still needs Fourth Day speakers for most of the year and he is waiting to confirm one church for the July Gathering. There are host churches for all the other Gatherings scheduled through December. It was discussed that the first Thursday in July is the third. Attendance may be small if the Gathering is that night. It was decided to hold the Gathering on Thursday, July 10.

Conference Board Rep – Kathy Shaw has not heard much on the clergy applications. She has contacted the possible Lay Director candidates for 2009. Three people have agreed to serve. There was discussion on possible candidates for the March 2009 position that still needs to be filled.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55, followed by a closing prayer by Georgia Stone.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Smith

Austin Chrysalis Board Minutes

February 22, 2008

In Attendance: Debbie Sandifer, Paul LeBlanc, Cortney Smith, Briana Roehling, Joel Roehling, Kevin Fowler, Sandy Brooks, Penny Mills, Kathe Boothby, Tracy Boothby, Liz Gray, Rev. Tanya Eustace, Rev. James Amerson, Darren Mock

Minutes

Motion to accept January Board Meeting minutes. Second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Check for pizza paid from last Hoot. 1 deposit received. \$10 shirt fee received. \$140 will be coming from last year's kitchen team from the Girls Flight. Current balance is \$1,079.84. Motion to accept treasurer's report. Seconded. Motion carried.

Additional member for the Board

Motion for Glenn Conner to join the Board. Second. Motion carried.

Board Training

Many thanks to Pat Miller for the training he gave to our Board tonight.

Shirts

Cortney received the remaining 8 Medium shirts from 2007 Chrysalis Flight. Thank you Cortney for staying on top of this with the multiple calls/emails/etc. to make sure the shirts were completed. We need to look into potentially using a new person next year because of the complications we have had. Current company is good with big orders, but smaller orders and extras are not efficient.

Bank Account

Chrysalis in the future will no longer have individual bank account, it will instead be combined with the Austin Emmaus account

Conference Board Rep

SWTC Chrysalis Board Meetings will be 5/10 and 9/29. We need someone on the Board to attend and represent our community.

Girls Flight #305 (July 10-13)

Discussed team for Girls Flight both inside and outside. Confirmed Spiritual Director. Marriage speakers identified and prayerfully considering. Cook Team has been confirmed.

Team meetings will start end of April or May.

Boys Flight #309 (July 24-27)

Discussed team for Boys Flight both inside and outside. Team meetings will begin 4/5. Marriage speakers are identified. Most table leaders both adults and youth are locked. Praying about Single speaker and potential candidates suggested.

Journey

Letters have been sent to college associations. Follow up calls will be made in March. Considering January 4th or Martin Luther King Jr. weekend as potential dates in 2009.

DYPS (District Youth Professionals)

James met with them to publicize Chrysalis and Journey, emphasizing if just 1 youth from each of their churches would attend, we would have full flights. Thank you James.

Submitted, Darren Mock

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

April 2008

Thursday, April 3, 2008
Crestview UMC
1300 Morrow Ave.
Speaker: Arlene Smith

May 2008

Thursday, May 1, 2008
Pflugerville First UMC
500 East Pecan Street
Speaker: TBA

June 2008

Thursday, June 12, 2008
Northwest Hills UMC
7050 Village Center Dr.
Speaker: TBA

July 2008

Thursday, July 10, 2008
TBA
Speaker: TBA

August 2008

Thursday, August 7, 2008
TBA
Speaker: TBA

September 2008

Thursday, September 4, 2008
TBA
Speaker: TBA

October 2008

Thursday, October 2, 2008
TBA
Speaker: TBA

November 2008

Thursday, November 6, 2008
TBA
Speaker: TBA

GAE4DG is accepting volunteer host churches and 4th Day Speakers for 2008 Gatherings.

Please contact Jack Foreman at 252-1001 or jcforeman@sbcglobal.net

Reminder: Childcare Services are available at all Gatherings.