



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



November, 2008

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 19, Number 11

Welcome New Pilgrims

Men's Walk #1456
Sept. 25-28, 2008
Highland Lakes

Tom Armstrong
Tony Auerbach
John Breeden
Todd Bryant
David Camilleri
Scott Cantrell
Chris Cotter
Dave Dennis
James Dieterich
Matt Duncan
Eric Fontenot
Chris Ford
Ken Fox
Dennis Gans
David Henners
Kevin Hutchison
Mack McLeod
Doug Moody
John Moss
Dale Muenzler
Gary Ranous
Mark Rich
Randy Sisk
Steve Skinner
Mike Temple
James Tisdale
Rudy Villarreal
Nic Whitworth
Jeff Williams
Joel Wise
Derek Wright

Remember Our Blessings

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ... For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Luke 12: 22-26, 29-31 (NRSV)

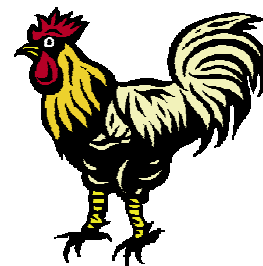
The reports in newspapers, television and radio have all been unsettling lately. Jobs, housing, stocks and retirement funds are in trouble for many people. Conversations on these topics abound. It is hard not to be drawn in to the gloomy prospects.

These problems have been around a long time. In the verses above from Luke 12, Jesus asks us to trust God, because He knows what we need. These words must be pretty important because they are in the New Testament twice, in Matthew 6 and Luke 12. God also asked many people for trust in the Old Testament as well – Abraham, Moses, Noah, Elijah, and many more. Trust that everything will be taken care of is pretty hard for me sometimes, but lately I have more trust. I have even been telling people not to panic.

I'm not sure how it has happened. I am thankful for all God has given me – family, friends, health and a job. Maybe I am praying more. I know I need to be more careful with my finances and with God's help I will be. But it is also important for us to support our local churches. It is stewardship campaign time for many churches. My church is focusing on our prayers, presence, and service as well as our gifts this year. Our churches need all these things. What can you do for your local church?

As Thanksgiving approaches, don't forget to remember all your blessings. God's love and grace can top your list!

De Colores!
Leslie Smith,
Lay Director
Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2008/2009 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Leslie Smith
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Spiritual Director

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Board Member for Walk Support

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Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Bonnie Harper
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Music Coordinator

Vacant

Walk Talk Editor

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



The Walk Talk Deadline for December is November 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 5!

We'll be looking for **you!**

2009 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk # 1485 **McKinney Roughs	Feb. 26 – Mar. 1	Jim Anthony, Lay Director Jim Mayfield, Spiritual Director
Women's Walk # 1497 Highland Lakes	April 23 – 26	Teddy Broeker, Lay Director Andy Smith, Spiritual Director
Men's Walk # 1513 Highland Lakes	Sept. 10 – 13	Keith Bible, Lay Director Sue Wells, Spiritual Director
Women's Walk # 1530 Highland Lakes	Oct. 22 – 25	Joan King, Lay Director Georgia Stone, Spiritual Director

**Please Note the February Walk is at McKinney Roughs, located on Highway 71 between Austin and Bastrop.

Opportunities:

Pilgrim/Butterfly, would you like to say a few word to the community? You can write a brief message for the *WalkTalk*. Send your message to Gina by the 20th of each month! franklingdom@gmail.com



Volunteer Needed! Music Coordinator

The GAE4DG is looking for a music coordinator to volunteer.

This role consists of coordinating with Host Churches, Lay Directors and the GAE4DG's wonderful musicians to provide music at Gatherings and/or Candlelights. Music is an important part of each Gathering and Walk.

For more information or if you are feeling called to serve in this role, please contact any Board Member listed on Page 2.

Blending in on the Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur is a type of the final "Day of Judgment," a reminder that God, the Holy One of Israel, is going to judge sin, and that judgment will be fierce and it will be final. Yes God is loving and forgiving but He hates sin. He is angry about sin and He intends to judge sin with an unyielding wrath. The knowledge of that truth ought to propel us out of our comfort zone so that we can offer God's means of atonement and extend His gracious offer of forgiveness.

We can become so callous to the world around us, so comfortable with our own sin, that we begin to feel we can just blend in, as though God were grading on a curve. We can find ourselves thinking, "I'm not any worse than the guy in the pew next to me, and I might well be a little better." We temporize God's holiness, shield our hearts from His searching gaze, find any device to break the tension between His righteousness and our sin. We can forget the word that tells us: "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). In the end, there can be no blending in. As we approach this biblical Holy Day of Atonement, let us pray that Jewish people the world over will truly consider both the judgment and the forgiveness of which this day speaks. May many find the only true atonement, which is offered in the Messiah Jesus. And may we who already know Him live lives of repentance and holiness, fearing no one but God. Let us cling to Him who is both our judge and our advocate -- despite the disapprobation of others -- so that we can boldly speak of His wrath and judgment, the only adequate context from which to proclaim His forgiveness and grace.

-- David Brickner, Executive Director, Jews for Jesus

De Colores! Gerard Kern

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at Covenant UMC. In Attendance were: Leslie Smith, Lay Director; Rev. Georgia Stone, Spiritual Director, Bud Broeker, SWTC Board Representative; Jim Anthony, Assistant Lay Director; Jack Foreman, Member Services; Diane Merwarth, Walk Support; Gene McConnell, Gathering Support; Mike Rhodes, Treasurer and Cortney Smith, Chrysalis.

Leslie Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Stone. The minutes from the September 4, 2008 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund balance on September 30, 2008 was \$2,559.15, net (starting balance \$4,359.15 reduced by \$1,800 due SWTC for Walk #1456). The Scholarship Fund balance was \$814.73. The treasurer's report was approved.

Leslie Smith announced that Bonnie Harper from Northwest Hills UMC, and a pilgrim on Walk 1451, volunteered to fill the open position of Agape Coordinator. The board accepted this offer and expressed its appreciation for Bonnie's willingness to serve in this important capacity.

The search for a new music coordinator continues, and this will continue to be announced at Gatherings and published in Walk Talk. There are many within the Austin Community qualified to meet this need and all are encouraged to prayerfully consider doing so.

Belinda Smith, Lay Director and Leslie Smith, Board Representative, presented their respective reports to the Board. While Randy Nettles, Lay Director for Walk #1451 was unable to attend and present his report. Dale Williams, Board Representative for this Walk, presented his oral report which he will submit in writing. All reports from the Board Representative on each Walk must be submitted to SWTC as part of the Walk closing process. The board recognizes the importance of these reports as a continuing means by which it may be informed of potential needs to ensure a continuing compliance with the Upper Room and SWTC model for Walks sponsored by the GAE4DG.

The board began a discussion regarding the type of music offered at Gatherings and Candlelight. This discussion recognized the integral role music plays in an Emmaus worship service and how a focus upon the use of traditional Emmaus music will provide a consistency to these services. The discussion recognized also the contribution that incorporation of new music may provide if properly balanced against the need for retaining a significant majority of traditional Emmaus music. With the ever increasing amount of praise and contemporary music, presented at many of the Community's churches, its inclusion must be balanced. There remains a challenge to continue the primary emphasis upon using traditional Emmaus music at Gatherings and Candlelight worship services and at the same time introducing new music in an appropriate way. The fact remains that a Gathering is an Emmaus worship service.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M. with a closing prayer by Rev. Stone.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Anthony



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: January 24, 2009 **Location:** Buda

Date: March 14, 2009 **Location:** San Angelo

Chrysalis Leadership Training : 01/17/09, San Antonio University UMC

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 with in 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 there appointees.



Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

November 2008

Thursday, November 6, 2008
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill Rd.
Speaker: Charles Chupco

December 2008

Thursday, December 4, 2008
Riverbend
4214 Capital of Texas Hwy.
(Loop 360)
Speaker: Ange Kogutz

January 2009

Thursday, January 8, 2009
TBA

February 2009

Thursday, February 5, 2009
First UMC of Austin

March 2009

Thursday, March 5, 2009
TBA

April 2009

Thursday, April 2, 2009
First UMC of Pflugerville

May 2009

Thursday, May 7, 2009
Memorial UMC

Set the Date!!

**GAE4DG is now accepting
volunteer host churches and
speakers for the upcoming 2009
Gatherings.**

**If your church has a preference on the
month to host the Gathering, please get
your request in early.**

Contact:

Board Member for Gathering Support

Gene McConnell

gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com

Reminder: Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.