



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



January, 2009

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 20, Number 01

Happy New Year!

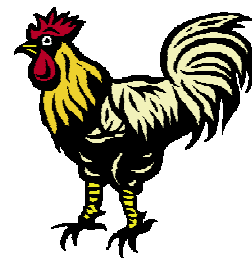
I hope you all had a blessed Christmas. Now it is time to ring in the New Year.

I'm not very good at New Year's resolutions, but I applaud you if you are good about making them and keeping them. When do I make them, it usually seems to be the same ones, eat healthier meals, lose weight, and/or exercise. Yes, I know I need to do all these things, but it is just easier to not do these healthy activities.

This year, I don't have any of these goals. But I have set a goal. This year I want to pray for our new national leaders. President-elect Obama and his new cabinet have many challenges facing them as they take office. Starting a new job is always difficult, but I will pray that they have wisdom as they begin their duties. I also want to pray for Congress that they can work with the new president to find solutions to the many problems facing our country.

I'm going to pray for our state leaders, too. The Texas Legislature will be back in town and they have many challenges facing them. Since many of us work for the state, the Texas Legislature has more day to day affect on us, so let's pray for their wisdom, too.

Last but not least, I'm praying for rain! Yes, it is winter, but the plants need water now to prepare for blooming in the spring. Our lakes and aquifers are getting lower by the day and they need to be replenished. It is sad looking at the pastures and fields nearby. Yes, I am a country girl in the city, but I bet your yard needs the rain, too.



I hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy New Year!

De Colores!

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

Chrysalis News

January 17-19, 2009

Chrysalis Journey at Mt. Wesley, Kerrville

Cost: \$185.00 (Scholarships Available)

Young Women's Lay Director: Cortney Smith (cortneymeister@gmail.com)

Young Men's Lay Director: Darren Mock (dmock@ti.com)

A Journey is a three day retreat for young women and young men ages 18-24 year old. You'll spend time in worship, prayer, fellowship, creative expression, recreation, singing, and discussion. You'll experience the love of God through prayers and the acts of service from a loving support community. Think of it as three days for you to discover or re-discover you spiritual self, to analyze and realize who you are in Christ.

Registration forms are posted on the SWTX Conference and Greater Austin Emmaus Community websites, or you may contact one of the Lay Directors or a member of the Chrysalis Next Steps Group. Darren Mock (dmock@ti.com) or Kathe Boothby (klboot@aol.com)



**Next Chrysalis Hoot:
January 31, 2009**



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2008/2009 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Leslie Smith
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Music Coordinator

Vacant

Walk Talk Editor

Gina Franklin
970-1393
franklingdom@gmail.com

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



The Walk Talk Deadline for February is January 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 6!

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.

Important Information for Emmaus Men's Walk 1485 February 26- March 1, 2009 McKinney Roughs

McKinney Roughs is located on Highway 71 East, approximately 13 miles on the other side of Austin Bergstrom Airport and is immediately adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort. This will be the first time the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group has used McKinney Roughs for a Walk, and there are some significant differences between Highland Lakes and this site.

McKinney Roughs has a large dining hall and a "chef's dream" commercial kitchen; however, there is no kitchen staff. Yet God does provide. Within our 4th Day Community, a Men's Reunion Group, which includes several chefs, has volunteered to be present on site for the entire Walk and to prepare each of our meals. Indeed this is "manna" from heaven and an amazing gift of agape!

Sleeping accommodations will be Bunk House Style. McKinney Roughs has 3 two story dorms with ample shower and restroom facilities on each floor. The servant team, the lay/clergy team and the pilgrims will each use one of the dorms. Transportation restrictions at McKinney Roughs do not permit the use of golf carts on campus. However, this restriction does not extend to wheel chairs or individual motorized "scooters." Also, private automobiles cannot pull up next to the dorms for unloading pilgrims. Although the distance between the various facilities (dorms, chapel, conference room and dining hall) is not great; one needs to be aware of these limitations. If any sponsor or pilgrim has further questions, please contact one of the individuals below.

Twenty Pilgrims must be registered with SWTC by January 22, 2009 to avoid cancellation of Walk 1485. This date is two weeks earlier than most Walks. McKinney Rough contract provisions with SWTC require event confirmation by this date in view of the high demand for use of its facilities. Cancellation within 32 days prior to Walk 1485 would incur significant financial penalties.

McKinney Roughs is a beautiful 1,100 acre nature site with a campus that is well suited for an Emmaus Walk. For more information regarding the site, one is encouraged to "google" LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park. Of the identified sites resulting from this search, two especially recommended for viewing are (1) LCRA- McKinney Roughs Nature Park and (2) [PDF] McKinney Roughs Nature Park."

De Colores, Jim Anthony, Lay Director- jim-anthony@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Jim Mayfield, Spiritual Director- JLMay36@sbcglobal.net
Kathy Shaw, Servant Team Coordinator- kathyshaw@swbell.net

Agape Drop-off:

There are several sites around town available, for a list of agape drop-off points, please contact Jim Anthony jim-anthony@sbcglobal.net, Bonnie Harper bonnieharper@earthlink.net, or Diane Merwarth dmerwarth@seton.org. Remember (1) any drop-off agape should be delivered by 6:00 PM on February 25. (2) no agape that requires "refrigeration" or ice, should be left at a drop-off point and (3) any agape which is perishable should be limited to that one would expect to be used on Friday, February 27. Thank you for your support, prayers and gifts.

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

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

Bud Broeker called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Stone. The minutes from the November 6, 2008 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund balance on November 30, 2008 was \$3,189.20 with \$138 due for distribution. The Scholarship Fund balance was \$804.73. The treasurer's report was approved.

Mike Rhodes suggested that the General Fund and Scholarship Fund be combined to avoid the fee that is charged by the bank for the second account. The motion was approved.

Bud Broeker proposed the following dates for future Walks:

Men's Walk – February 25-28, 2010

Women's Walk – April 25-28, 2010

Men's Walk – October 7-10, 2010

Women's Walk – November 11-15, 2010

The dates were approved and prepared for mailing to the SWTX Conference office.

Gene McConnell stated that host churches have been secured for the next six months for Gatherings, though no speakers have been confirmed. It was discussed that the Gatherings for January and June of 2009 would be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Diane Merwarth discussed the babysitting options for the Men's Walk to be held at McKinney Roughs. She will confirm with the facility whether or not space for babysitting will be available and if not, it will be publicized that no babysitting is available for candlelight.

There was discussion about reserving luminaries for Teddy Broeker's Walk. Bud Broeker will make the reservation.

There was a discussion of the use of targeted communications to reach Pilgrims in their 4th Day. It was discussed whether or not Pilgrim's e-mail addresses listed at registration should be used for community updates and information. It was suggested that an opt-out option could be included in e-mail correspondences. It was discussed that the Board should explore alternatives to the current Yahoo group that is being used for communication since there has been problems getting people signed up and that a Yahoo account is needed to join the group.

Team selection was set for February 12th for the next two Walks. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M. with a closing prayer by Rev. Stone.

Respectfully submitted, Cortney Smith

New Resolve

'Tis the season for resolutions. We vow to improve ourselves -- but how long do we honor these promises? Best intentions can leave us feeling frustrated, like we've failed ourselves again.

Resolutions are not bad in and of themselves. It is important and healthy to set personal goals and throw yourself into projects with the best of intentions. They tend to encourage to focus on ourselves, rather than on our faith in a loving Lord who loves and forgives us, even when we botch things up -- including our resolutions.

This year let's first celebrate soul improvement and help each other rediscover the never-to-be-broken resolution that our Lord gives us in Baptism: He calls us as His own, even when we fail!

We are God's people, not because of what we have done or resolve to do, but because of what Christ has done for us. With this as our focus, we are empowered by the Spirit to share our gifts of joy, peace, patience, kindness, forgiveness and thankfulness -- not because we want to earn God's favor, but because we are His people. It is not that we "gotta do it," but that we "get to" do it. We get to take care of ourselves in order to take better care of others. We get to tell others about Christ's love for everyone. It is not about us; it is about Christ living in us.

A little girl who portrayed the angel in our Christmas program one year summed it up well. As the shepherds came and huddled all around the manger scene, the little angel noticed that the audience could not see the baby Jesus in His crib. With her halo shining brightly, she yelled at the shepherds, "Get out of the way and let Jesus show through!"

The ongoing resolve we have from the Lord is from Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

De Colores! Gerard Kern

Austin Next Steps Chrysalis Board Minutes

November 18, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathe Boothby, Penny Mills, Sandy Brooks, Jim McClain, Ehrikka Hodge, Briana Roehling, Joel Roehling, Cortney Smith, Darren Mock, Paul LeBlanc

MINUTES: Minutes were read. Minutes approved and seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer reports balance of \$6,765.27. We will check on the second check received from Conference as reimbursement, we need to follow up as to if we owe or conference does. Treasurers report was approved and it was seconded by. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boys Journey - Found the a couple who will do the marriage talk. We are still looking for a Singles Talk. Darren will focus on 4 tables. They will have there 2nd team meeting on Saturday, November 22. There is 1 butterfly signed up. 1 scholarship as been requested. *With regards to scholarships, we discussed how many to offer and shouldn't the butterfly take some ownership by paying a portion. We decided to bring up each scholarship as it comes up individually.

Prayers for the Singles talk, butterflies and sponsors.

Girls Journey – The second meeting has taken place. The marriage talk was filled today. Still have 8 talks to preview at the last meeting due to unforeseen circumstances at the last meeting. One of the clergy talks will be previewed the evening before the flights. It was suggested that the talk be emailed ahead of time to team to preview. December 6 is the last team meeting.

Shirts: They will be long sleeve and we will ask \$15, the money earned will go to scholarships. We need to order more than last time. There was discussion as to whether we need to change the amount the shirts are sold for.

Girls Chrysalis: Again looking at places to host the Chrysalis. It was suggested that 1st Methodist in downtown Austin, or Marble Falls. If the churches are used the flights would be Wed – Sat, and if we use Twin Oaks it will be Thurs – Sun. We have Twin Oaks booked but the Conference price may be too high. We will follow up on this. Need to get a SD confirmed. It was suggested that Sheri Clifton might be a possibility and she will be contacted. Sandy Brooks agreed to be the Board Rep. Need to find an outside coordinator. These three positions need to be turned into Conference ASAP.

Boy Chrysalis: No LD has been found. We will wait until the December meeting to try to locate a Boys LD and then if no one is available we will concentrate on 2010.

The Flight dates for 2010 will be the same as 2009. Looking forward to possibly LD's for 2010. We will also work on the 2011 Journey's.

Hoot: We are changing the date of the Hoot from January 24 to Sat, January 31. There are several youth that will be attending Mid-Winter retreats on the 24th. We will try to have the location be at 1st UMC in downtown Austin. We need to locate speakers, a good speaker may be someone from one of the Journey's. Tracy and Taylor need to work on the publicity.

Publicity: We need to talk to youth directors for the summer Chrysalis to work on getting butterflies and church involvement. Also need to look for possible older youth that have been on Chrysalis to talk about their experiences on Chrysalis.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Next meeting - Tuesday, December 16th

Journey Team Commissionings – January 8, 2009 at Hyde Park UMC

Conference Board Meeting - January 10th in San Antonio

Chrysalis Journeys – January 17-19th at Mt.Wesley

Chrysalis Emmaus Leadership Training – January 24th at Buda UMC (required for LD & SD, Recommended for BR & ALD's within 15 months of the Flight)

Chrysalis Sponsored Emmaus Gathering – April 2nd at FUMC Pflugerville

Volunteers Needed!

Music Coordinator:

The GAE4DG is looking for a music coordinator volunteer. This role consists of coordinating with Host Churches, Lay Directors and the GAE4DG's wonderful musicians to provide music at Gatherings and/or Candlelight Service. Music is an important part of each Gathering and Walk.

Childcare:

The GAE4DG is looking for child care volunteers for Candlelight Service for each Walk. This role requires several reliable volunteers with a current personal background check on file as required by SWTC, GAE4DG and the Walk sites. The need for a qualified group of volunteers to provide child care is essential. The response will determine whether child care at Candlelight Services may be provided.

For more information or if you are feeling called to serve in either of these roles, please contact any Board Member listed on Page 2.



Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

January 2009

Thursday, January 8, 2009
Hyde Park UMC
4001 Speedway
Speaker: Kevin Broome

February 2009

Thursday, February 5, 2009
First Church of Austin
Lavaca & 12th Street
Speaker: TBA

March 2009

Thursday, March 5, 2009
Crestview UMC
1300 Morrow Ave.
Speaker: TBA

April 2009

Thursday, April 2, 2009
First UMC of Pflugerville
500 East Pecan Street
Speaker: TBA

May 2009

Thursday, May 7, 2009
Memorial UMC
6100 Berkman Dr.
Speaker: Alberta Shelton

June 2009

Thursday, June 11, 2009
The Rock UMC
2001 W. New Hope Rd.
Speaker: TBA

Reminder: Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

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

Contact:

**Board Member for Gathering Support
Gene McConnell**
gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com