



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



May, 2009

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 20, Number 05

Thankful!

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:2-6

I do thank God for all of you in our Greater Austin Emmaus Fourth Day Group and the larger Emmaus community, too. You help spread the Gospel through your actions, prayers and enthusiasm. We could not have held the four Walks this year without you. You have served on conference room and servant teams, sponsored pilgrims, made agape, written letters, prayed, attended Candlelight and Gatherings, sung a lot of songs, etc, etc. WHEW and that is just for Emmaus! Some you have also participated in Chrysalis, Journeys and Kairos! Our local churches are stronger because of your involvement and support.

Thanks also need to go to the GAE4DG Board of Directors. Bud Broeker, Rev. Georgia Stone, Jim Anthony, Jack Foreman, Gene McConnell, Mike Rhodes, Diane Merwarth and Cortney Smith have all done a wonderful job. Each has put in many hours to lead the Fourth Day Group.

I'm also thankful for all our new pilgrims this year. We welcome you and hope you will get involved with the Fourth Day Group. You can find out about opportunities at Gatherings, on the website at www.austinemmaus.org, or sign up for the Emmaus Yahoo news group.

It has been a good year! Thanks be to God!

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

Christ is counting on you!



God's Comfort

God is a comforter, the source of our comfort in any kind of affliction. Like a parent comforts a child, God's nature is to comfort us when we are sorrowful, and the marvel of it all is that God does not comfort us with the reserve of some bystander, but enters into our pain.

God is portrayed in the scriptures as a shepherd. The people of Biblical times understood a shepherd's love. A shepherd knew every animal in his flock. He would call them by name. The shepherd would put his life on the line for the sake of his flock. God cares for us, keeps us, takes us by the hand as well as comforts us. So determined to care for us that he sent both Jesus and the Holy Spirit to console us.

God sends the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to speak in our behalf "with sighs too deep for words," writes Paul in Romans 8. The Holy Spirit is an intangible presence that can bring peace to a troubled heart. No matter the cause of our sorrow, the Holy Spirit comforts us with a peace that "surpasses all understanding."

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2008/2009 Board of Directors and Volunteers

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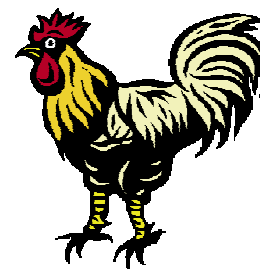
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Vacant

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 May is May 26th!

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 # 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

Proposed 2010 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk	February 11-14	Rocky Wilcox, Lay Director
Women's Walk	April 22-25	Chris Weihl, Lay Director
Men's Walk	October 7-11	Gary Johnson, Lay Director
Women's Walk	November 18-21	Dianne Merwarth, Lay Director

SWTX Walk/Flight 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 16, 2009	Location: La Vernia
Date: August 15, 2009	Location: Johnson City
Date: Sept. 15, 2009	Location: Beeville
Date: Oct. 17, 2009	Location: Kerrville

Purpose: Training Lay Directors, Board Reps and Spiritual Directors Leadership teams for Emmaus/Chrysalis. The Walk/Flight 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 LT is open to anyone interested in learning more about 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 SWTX Conf Emmaus/Chrysalis Lay Directors and Spiritual Director or their appointees.

Chrysalis Flights!!

Save the Date!! Time to start thinking about this year's butterflies for the most awesome of adventures - a Chrysalis Flight!! All youth who are currently in 10th - 12th grades are invited to attend.

July 9-11: Boys' Flight # 325 at Marble Falls UMC

July 23-25: Girls' Flight # 327 at Marble Falls UMC



Registration forms are posted on the SWTX Conference and Greater Austin Emmaus Community websites, or you may contact one of the Board Members or any member of the Chrysalis Next Steps Group. Scholarships are available! Sign up for the most awesome of adventures – a Chrysalis Team!! No experience necessary, you just need a servant's heart and the desire to see our teenagers know God's personal love for them as they are empowered to love and serve others. Get your application in today!

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Monday 31 March Northwest Hills United Methodist Church. In Attendance were: Leslie Smith, Lay Director; Bud Broeker, SWTC Board Representative; Georgia Stone, Spiritual Director; Jack Foreman, Assistant Lay Director; Diane Merwarth, Walk Support; Gene McConnell, Gathering Support; Cortney Smith, Chrysalis.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Lay Director Leslie Smith. The minutes of the previous meeting were amended and approved on a motion by Jack Foreman and Bud Broeker. The finance report was e-mailed by Mike Rhodes and presented by Gene McConnell. As of March 30, General Fund - \$4351.37 and Scholarship Fund - \$960.23. The report was approved on a motion by Gene McConnell and Bud Broeker.

Note: Minutes are due for Walk Talk by 20th of each month.

Bud Broeker presented Lay Director recommendations for 2010. They are:

Men's Walk: February 11th thru 14th, Rocky Wilcox Lay Director, Gene McConnell Board Representative

Women's Walk: April 22nd thru 25th, Chris Wehl Lay Director, Roxie Greenway Board Representative

Men's Walk: October 7th thru 11th, Gary Johnson Lay Director, Jack Foreman Board Representative

Women's Walk: November 18th thru 21st, Dianne Merwarth Lay Director, Cortney Smith Board Representative

Bud reported that there are four (4) potential Lay Directors for women's walks for 2011 and three (3) for the men's walks.

Leslie Smith suggested and the board agreed to have a special called joint meeting in August or September of the GAE4DG Board of Directors and the Lay Directors and Spiritual Directors for the 2010 Walks. The agenda, to be set at a subsequent meeting, will focus on setting expectations for the 2010 walks.

Jack Foreman reported that the nomination committee had identified two (2) candidates for the 2009 / 2010 Board of Directors. Additional potential candidates were discussed and Gene McConnell agreed to report to the Gathering on April 2nd in Jack absence.

Gene McConnell reported that Mary Ann McConnell will coordinate babysitting for Candlelight for the upcoming Walk in April.

Bud Broeker reported that he had ordered 300 new worship books and 25 Reunion cards for resale at Gatherings and Candlelight. The price is \$3.00 for the books and \$1.00 for the cards.

The board postponed buying additional song books until an inventory of existing books was available.

The board agreed to buy 40 new Team Manuals.

Board agreed to reimburse Kathy Shaw for printing cost for the LLDO training Kathy held on 28 April 2009.

Gene McConnell, Board Representative for Walk 1485, reported on the walk. The board discussed how to best incorporate the input from Gene's report into future Walks.

The Board agreed to recommend holding at least one of the 2010 Walks at McKinney Rough. Bud Broeker will discuss with the Conference Emmaus office.

The meeting adjourned at 10PM with a prayer by Rev. Georgia Stone.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jack Foreman, Assistant Lay Director.

Team Selection for Emmaus Walks and Chrysalis

Emmaus & Chrysalis teams are selected by the Team Selection Committee from the current team selection database. Composition of teams must include 1/3 first time team servers, 1/3 who have served on 1-2 teams, and 1/3 who have served on 3 or more teams. Team service is limited to once per year, unless you are working to meet the requirements to serve as a lay director. To serve on a team, Team Applications can be found on the GAEC website at www.austinemmaus.org.

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
For all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

– John Wesley

Austin Next Steps Chrysalis Board Minutes

March 24, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathe Boothby, Tracy Boothby, Liz Gray, William Gray, Sandy Brooks, Paul LeBlanc, Penny Mills, Courtney Smith, Briana Roehling, Greg Mills, Jim McClain, Tanya Eustace, Ehrikka Hodge, Jim Luton

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

TREASURERS REPORT: Balance of \$7062.95 on hand plus \$230.00. All checks cleared. Journey flights not closed. Looked at the 4th Day Group annual financial report. Treasurer's Report approved and seconded.

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be new worship books for Chrysalis that will coincide with the Emmaus books.

Boys Chrysalis – Still trying to get all clergy together. Looking for Singles, Next Steps and Growth through Study talks

Girls Chrysalis– All talks covered but still looking for 1 Adult and 1 youth table leader.

Summer flights – the showers at the Junior High are ok'd. Total cost per flight is \$300.

Talk to Laura B. to see about working on shirt design.

2010 Journeys – Sights to check on: River Bend, Bethany UMC, check with David Payne's facility Bee Creek, McKinney Falls, check into high schools in the area. Jim Luton ok'd as the Journey LD and will work on 2009 Boy's Chrysalis. Looking at names for girls Journey Jim will look at names he knows.

2010 Chrysalis Flights – will think about who to work up to LD's. For future clergy considerations look at those currently to be ordained. Darren will be working on the data base.

Austin Emmaus Board update – talked about combining Chrysalis and Emmaus experience for Walks and Flights.

T-Shirts: Talk about designs. Recent walk had a pilgrim that spoke about a ministry that would like to do t-shirts cost would be \$4/shirt. Will check into this. Discussed show to sell the remaining Journey shirts.

April 2 is the Chrysalis/Emmaus Gathering at Pflugerville. Use My Space/FaceBook to notify youth.

Conference meeting on April 4.

Chrysalis 2010 will be held the same two weekend in July as 2009.

What does it mean if I say “Yes” to being on a team?

A team member is one who agrees to be a part of an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight Team. Team members serve in many capacities, but they always SERVE! Anyone who has attended a walk, attended gatherings, is active in a Reunion Group, and is attending regular worship is eligible to be a team member. God determines the time and place of that service through prayer.

It means several things if you say “yes” to being a team member. First and foremost, it means you will serve for God's glory, asking and seeing nothing in it for yourself. Do not be uneasy if the Lay Director asks you to do a task for which you feel you are incapable. You may well be, but the Lord is not. The Lord can handle whatever it is He has called you to do. The Lay Director will assign you a task only after much communication with God, which effectively means He has chosen you.

Moreover, if you agree to serve on a team, you are committing yourself to attend several all day team meetings. Also, you are committing to pray daily for the other team members and the Pilgrims-to-be.

Team members need no special recognition for serving God. Just being on the team brings you much spiritual growth and blessings. Even though you give, you receive much, much more.

Ask not what God can do for you, but what you can do for God.

Without team members, the Pilgrims would be at a great disadvantage. Imagine if the Pilgrims had to fill their own candy bowls, get their own drinks, find their own way in the dark to chapel, borrow used kleenex, cry alone, or even pray alone. A Walk or Chrysalis is driven by the Team. Serving on a team is serving God in the most unique, outright and unselfish way; it takes time, dedication and hard work, but it is oh so rewarding. Think of what your Walk or Chrysalis experience was like and how many team members it must have taken to make it all happen. Until you have served on a team, you actually have no idea what goes on behind the scenes

So consider adding your name to the selection roster by sending in your Team Selection Application. The forms can be downloaded from the GAEC web site. Any questions regarding team service or leadership, can be directed to any Board Member or Clergy

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

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

July 2009

Thursday, July 2, 2009
TBA
Speaker: TBA

August 2009

Thursday, August 6, 2009
TBA
Speaker: TBA

September 2009

Thursday, September 3, 2009
TBA
Speaker: TBA

October 2009

Thursday, October 1, 2009
TBA
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