



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



August, 2009

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 20, Number 08

Do You Remember?

I do. It was a Saturday night 15 years ago next month at Lake Texoma and it was a night that capped off a whole weekend of wonderful surprises and experiences. That wonderful weekend was made possible by the love, sacrifice and commitment of my friends from all over Texas and from other friends that I could not imagine knew me. This was my experience and I know that your experience was similar. I will always remember that night and I know that you will also so I ask you to pass it on. In our lives, we have only a few opportunities to be part of a truly memorable experience in the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters. Emmaus is one such opportunity. I don't need to go into the details, you know them. Sponsor a pilgrim, support Emmaus in your home church, volunteer for a team and please show up so that the light of your candle will be remembered forever.

De Colores!
Jack Foreman, Lay Director
Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group



Emmaus Walk 1513

Men's Walk #1513 will take place September 10-13, 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

Keith Bible – <i>Lay Director</i>			Val Sansing – <i>Spiritual Director</i>	
Gary Bible	Bud Broeker	Charles Chupco	Barry Day	Bob Duplantis
Ralph Eckwall	Don Greenway	Paul Harris	Ron Hejtmanek	Gary Johnson
David Kendrick	Charlie Lancaster	Myles McKemie	Nancy Mossman	
David Payne	Stan Putman	Brad Snow	Harold Sundbeck	
Kyle Toomire	Allen Updike	Jason White	Andy Whitwell	Ben Wolfe

2009 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk # 1513	Sept. 10 – 13	Keith Bible, Lay Director
Highland Lakes		Val Sansing, Spiritual Director
Women's Walk # 1530	Oct. 22 – 25	Joan King, Lay Director
Highland Lakes		Georgia Stone, Spiritual Director

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2009/2010 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Jack Foreman

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Spiritual Director

Rev. Georgia Stone

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4th Day Board Representative

Bud Broeker

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Board Member for Gathering Support

Vacant

Board Member for Walk Support

Diane Merwarth

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Board Member for Member Services

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Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Kay Shout

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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 September is August 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?!?!?!?

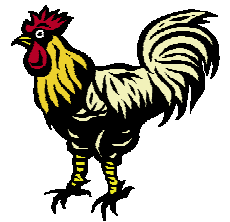
They are normally on the first Thursday of each month. Childcare is available at all Gatherings! Check out the schedule on page 6!

We'll be looking for you!

2010 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk #1541 Highland Lakes	February 11-14	Rocky Wilcox, Lay Director Gene McConnell, Board Rep.
Women's Walk #1556 Highland Lakes	April 22-25	Chris Weihl, Lay Director Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.
Men's Walk #1585 Highland Lakes	October 7-11	Gary Johnson, Lay Director Jack Foreman, Board Rep.
Women's Walk #1599 Highland Lakes	November 18-21	Dianne Merwarth, Lay Director Cortney Smith, Board Rep.

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: August 15, 2009	Location: Johnson City
Date: Sept. 19, 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.

The Long Arm of the Lord

Do you know someone who seems to be drowning spiritually; someone who has wandered away from the Savior and His church; someone who has heard of God's love, but who has been turned away from the Lord? This brings to mind the prophet Jonah, someone who tried to hide from God. When God told Jonah to deliver a message to the city of Ninevah, he resisted God's plan and ran away. He boarded a ship, hid below deck, and tried to ignore the call of the Lord.

It is easy for people to run and hide from the Lord. Knowing that, the Lord will reach out and bring us back. You've heard the phrase, "the long arm of the law;" well, we could say for this article "the long arm of the Lord." No matter where we may run and hide, the Lord can find us. That's what we're told in Psalm 139, where David says, "*Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.*" Jonah found his bed in the depths -- of a fish.

After the reluctant prophet was tossed overboard, God put in motion a plan of rescue. Three days in the belly of a great fish gave Jonah the time to repent and call to the Lord for deliverance. Scripture records Jonah calling out of the darkness. He said, "*In my distress I called to the Lord, and He answered me*" (Jonah 2:2). In verse 7, he added, "*When my life was ebbing away, I remembered You, Lord, and my prayer rose to You, to Your holy temple.*"

Verse nine shares how the Lord's long arm delivered Jonah from his predicament: "*Salvation comes from the Lord.*" Jonah had run away from God, but in the end he had to admit salvation was dependent upon the Lord.

God has the address of your wandering loved one, and there is nowhere your loved one can go to escape the love of God. Let the story of Jonah encourage you.

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

New Agape Signup Online

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group has entered a new era. The signup for agape for a GAE4DG-sponsored Walk to Emmaus is now available on the web. This will be a TRIAL for the walks to be held this fall (September and October), but we will still have a paper version to pass around at gatherings. If this is successful and meets all of our needs, we would like to consider phasing out the paper version so that everyone can signup on the web to support the GAE4DG-sponsored Walk to Emmaus.

The first web-based signup for Men's Walk to Emmaus #1513 was unveiled at the GAE4DG Gathering at Parker Lane UMC on Thursday June 11, 2009. The signup is at <http://www.mysignup.com/walk1513agape> and is free. Several laptop computers were available at the Agape Feast following the Gathering for attendees to use to signup for agape.

The general format at the web site is a list of instructions at the top of the page, followed by a grid of 6 columns with many rows for the items needed. The 1st column is the "Count" of the number of items to bring for each "I'll bring this!" button on a row. The 2nd column is the "Item" description which sometimes contains information such as "bag of 48", "1.5 lbs.", or "1 quart". The 3rd-6th columns are the "I'll bring this!" buttons.

The list of items is in alphabetical order. If you want to search for a particular item, you can enter <Control-F>, enter the name in the Find box, and press the Next pushbutton. An example is "notebook" which finds "Secretary notebook for each table" and "Table Notebooks".

When you press one of the "I'll bring this!" buttons, the web will prompt you to enter

- First Name (this item is required and will be visible on web),
- Last Name (this item is required and will be visible on web),
- E-Mail (this item is required and will NOT be visible on web),
- Telephone Number (512-123-4567 format) (this item is required and will NOT be visible on web),
- description of the agape for "Agape, dining room or pillow" (leave this field blank for other items such as "chips" or "water") (this item is optional and will NOT be visible on the web), and
- Undo Code (a password you create and use if you want to undo your signup) (this item is required and will NOT be visible on web).

If you have previously entered this information, everything but your E-Mail will be filled in for you if you sign up for more than one item.

When you press the "I promise that I will bring this!" button at the bottom of the page, your information will be entered into the database. There is a slight possibility that someone else on another computer might have pressed the exact same "I'll bring this!" button and completed their information before you, so please check your item to be sure that your First Name and Last Name are listed for the item.

If there is more than one "I'll bring this!" button for an item and you wish to bring more than Count items, you can press 2 of the "I'll bring this!" buttons and bring 2 times Count items, you can press 3 of the "I'll bring this!" buttons and bring 3 times Count items, or you can press 4 of the "I'll bring this!" buttons and bring 4 times Count items, etc.

If you find that you have made a mistake or that you can no longer bring the item, return to the web page, press the "Undo" button under your First Name and Last Name for an item, enter the Undo Code that you entered for this item, and press the "Please free up this time slot" button. After you have done this, it will return to a "I'll bring this!" button and someone else can sign up for the item.

Approximately one week prior to the beginning of a Walk, a reminder e-mail will be sent to you for each item that you have promised to bring. The drop-off locations will be listed in the reminder e-mail.

De Colores! Tom Rioux



International Emmaus Community:

<http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/>

Southwest Texas Conference:

<http://www.umcswtxprograms.org/html/emmaus.html>



**God doesn't call the
qualified,
He qualifies the called.**

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, July 9, 2009, at Bethany United Methodist Church. In Attendance were: Leslie Smith, Past Lay Director; Bud Broeker, SWTC Board Representative; Georgia Stone, Spiritual Director; Diane Merwarth, Walk Support; Roxie Greenway; Treasurer and Bob Duplantis, Member Services Support.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by Past Lay Director Leslie Smith, with an opening Prayer by Georgia Stone.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Bud Broeker, with a second by Diane Merwarth.

The finance report was presented by Roxie Greenway and approved on a motion by Bud Broeker, seconded by Bob Duplantis. Roxie reported as follows:

Recap for June 2009:	Beginning balance:	\$5359.19
	Expenses:	400.00
	Deposits:	191.00
	Ending balance:	\$5150.19



Alan Updike has withdrawn from his position in Gathering Support. Leslie will make an announcement at the Gathering, requesting a volunteer to fill this position.

Bud Broeker reported on sale of the new Worship books and Service Sheets. They continue to sell well at gatherings, with some inventory still remaining. Roxie Greenway is still in the process of purchasing 50 new Team Manuals for use by the upcoming Walk teams and to purchase 100 additional Service Sheets for resale to the membership.

Old Business:

Bud Broeker reported that all Lay Directors for Fall 2009 and Spring/Fall 2010 have responded and are able to attend a meeting with the Board on July 14 at Northwest Hills Methodist Church. The purpose of this meeting is to share goals and expectations for these Walks.

Diane Merwarth reported that the "My Sign Up" site for agape will be utilized for the Fall 2009 Walks, after which it will be evaluated for effectiveness. If the response is positive, revisions will be made based on feedback for future walks. She will make an announcement at the Gathering tonight that anyone who is not comfortable with on-line programs or who does not have access can contact her for alternate methods for agape sign-up. Bob Duplantis reported that there will be reminders sent to the Yahoo group beginning 8 weeks prior to the Walks, reminding people of the ability to sign up for agape, and a link is posted on the calendars on the Yahoo Group site as well as the GAE4D site.

Team selection for the Spring 2010 Walks will be Tuesday, August 4 – location to be determined.

New Business:

Bud Broeker asked the Board for opinions on sending e-mails to everyone in the database (everyone who provided e-mail addresses) inviting them to join Yahoo Groups if they haven't already done so. He also discussed the idea of sending a similar e-mail to all Pilgrims shortly after the completion of their Walks. Roxie Greenway volunteered to draft a letter of welcome and invitation to be included in this e-mail, and the Board will then provide feedback for revisions.

Diane Merwarth discussed the need for Child Care at Candlelight for the upcoming Walks. She will contact potential "sitters" to see if anyone is interested.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM with a closing prayer by Roxie Greenway.

Minutes submitted by: Diane Merwarth, Member for Walk Support

Austin Next Steps Chrysalis Board Minutes

June 23, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathe Boothby, Penny Mills, Greg Mills, Tanya Eustace, Liz Gray, Jim Luton, Ehrikka Hodges

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

TREASURERS REPORT: No activity, no report to approve.

NEW BUSINESS:

Boys Chrysalis: In need of a marriage talk and butterflies. Currently have 4 butterflies and need 12 by 5:00 on Thursday, June 25. The background checks have been mailed and the child protection is done. 8 talks will need to be previewed at the last meeting which is Saturday, June 27.

Girls Chrysalis: In need of names for music team, the two leaders will not be able to attend. Still in need of a medical person.

We will follow up on the Hoot date when Cortney comes back in town. We will wait on team selection for the Journey until the new board come in.

Need to check on team commissioning dates at a future Gathering.



Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

August 2009

Thursday, August 6, 2009
Riverbend
4214 Capital of Texas Hwy.
(Loop 360)
Speaker: TBA

September 2009

Thursday, September 3, 2009
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Rd.
Speaker: TBA

October 2009

Thursday, October 1, 2009
Oakhill UMC
7815 Highway 290, West
Speaker: TBA

November 2009

Thursday, November 5, 2009
Northwest Hills UMC
7050 Village Center Dr.
Speaker: TBA

December 2009

Thursday, December 3, 2009
TBA
Speaker: TBA

January 2010

Thursday, January 7, 2010
TBA
Speaker: TBA

Reminder: Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

**GAE4DG is now accepting
volunteer host churches and
speakers for the upcoming 2010
Gatherings.**

Contact:

Assistant Lay Director
Gene McConnell

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