



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



September, 2009

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 20, Number 09

What is Emmaus?

What is Emmaus?

From the Upper Room web site the answer is; "The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." As Lay Director of the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group, I constantly have to remind myself that the objective of Emmaus is servanthood and not Gathering, Walks and Flights. Please don't misunderstand, our Walks and Flights are important but they are the means to the objective: servanthood. As "a servant to all" we must ask ourselves what can we do? Have we extended an invitation to attend a Walk? Do we have Emmaus information available in our churches? Have you personally shared you Emmaus experience with a potential Emmaus Pilgrim?

DeColores my Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Jack Foreman, Lay Director
Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group



Emmaus Walk 1530

Women's Walk #1530 will take place October, 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!

Pray for Pilgrims to be served by this wonderful team.

Team Members

Joan King – <i>Lay Director</i>	Georgia Stone – <i>Spiritual Director</i>	Beth Bible – <i>Board Rep.</i>
Lynn Barton	Lee Crook	Lois Draper
Roxie Greenway	Joyce Ann Herzog	Marva Kilbourn
Colleen LaSoya	Lynn Magee	Jeana Martin
Audrey Spencer	Gloria Stevens	Lee Lean Sundbeck
		Bernadine Eaton
		Linda Elliott
		Annie Lancaster
		Elley Morgan
		Sue Payne
		Stephanie Tollett
		Betty Fetty
		Michele Lang
		Beth Seward
		Jeannie Whitehurst

2009 Austin Sponsored Walks

Women's Walk # 1530
Highland Lakes

Oct. 22 – 25

Joan King, Lay Director
Georgia Stone, Spiritual

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2009/2010 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Jack Foreman

252-1001

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Spiritual Director

Rev. Georgia Stone

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4th Day Board Representative

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Assistant Lay Director

Gene McConnell

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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

Bob Duplantis

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Treasurer

Roxie Greenway

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Immediate Past Lay Director

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Weekend Follow-Up Coordinator

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Database Coordinator

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Kay Shout

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Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Bonnie Harper

bonnieharper@earthlink.net

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 October is September 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: 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 Twenty-third Psalm

The 23rd Psalm contains the most familiar six verses in the Bible. Many know all or part of them by heart. Most can pick up a Bible and find these verses with little trouble. The 23rd Psalm may be one of the shortest psalms but it is without a doubt one of the richest and most beloved passages in all the Scriptures.

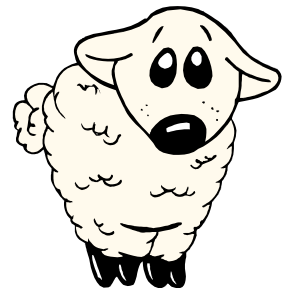
The 23rd Psalm has soothed more grief than all the philosophies of this world put together. It has poured more balm on human hearts and brought more consolation to sorrowing people than all this world's counselors and therapists combined. It has given hope to widows in the night and sung to hearts that were overwhelmed with weeping and pain. It's brought cheer to people paralyzed by fear and doubt.

What makes this little psalm so precious and powerful in every age? The answer, I believe, is that this psalm focuses on the exquisite love of God, personally, for his people. It is a marvelous reminder of how deeply and tenderly God loves every individual follower of his. That is the one thought and feeling that dominates every part of this psalm. We get an idea of just how deeply God has committed himself to us -- in the same way a shepherd is committed to his dear sheep. Even in our darkest moments, this little psalm keeps reminding us that God really does care for us, and that he really is leading us "for his name's sake" and that we need to trust that He knows what's best for us.

What makes this psalm so special is that it was intended to bring God's truth to bear on our everyday lives, in every age and in every culture. **Thanks be to God!**

De Colores!

Gerard Kern



Agape Signup Online

The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1530 is at www.mysignup.com/walk1530agape.

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).

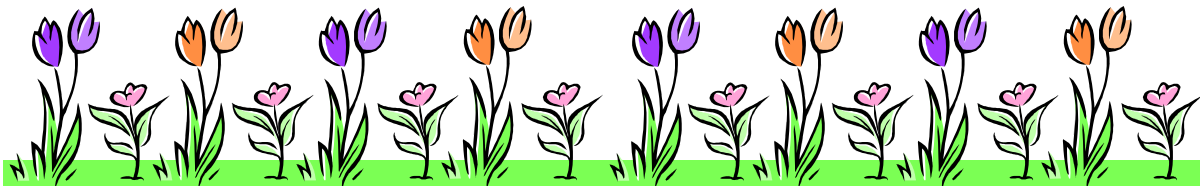
If you have previously entered this information, everything but your E-Mail will be filled in for you if you sign up for more than one item.

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.



Volunteers Needed!

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 Diane Merwarth at dianemerwarth@att.net or any Board Member listed on Page 2.

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, August 6, 2009, at Riverbend Church. In Attendance were: Gene McConnell, Assistant Lay Director, Bud Broeker, SWTC Board Representative; Jack Foreman, Lay Director; Diane Merwarth, Walk Support; Roxie Greenway; Treasurer, Cortney Smith, Chrysalis Representative and Bob Duplantis, Member Services Support.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by Lay Director Jack Foreman, with an opening Prayer by Bud Broeker. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Bob Duplantis, with a second by Bud Broeker. The finance report was presented by Roxie Greenway and approved on a motion by Diane Merwarth, seconded by Bob Duplantis. Roxie reported that as of the end of July, the overall total balance of funds is at \$8,068.42.

Bud Broeker gave a report from conference, stating the new stipend for Lay Directors from conference will now be \$300 of walks starting in 2010. The date for the tri-annual training with Carlene has been tentatively set for 01/09/2010. The sale of the new Worship books and Service Sheets continues to do well at gatherings and we will continue to make them available. Roxie Greenway purchased two sets of team manuals and covers for the walks. The Board approved a motion by Diane Merwarth with second by Bob DuPlantis to reimburse Roxie for the expenses. Roxie suggested we have the Board Reps on closing walks return the team manuals to the Walk Support Board Rep to be inventoried before handing them off to the next walk Board Rep. So any missing can be replaced.

Old Business:

Bud Broeker reported on the meeting between the Lay Directors for 2090 and 2010 with the Board on July 14 at Northwest Hills Methodist Church. The purpose of this meeting was to share goals and expectations for these Walks. The meeting was well attended with most of the Board there and all but two Lay Directors in attendance. The result is thought to be very positive in helping the Lay Directors understand what is expected of them based on Conference rules and rules established by the GAE4DG Board for the walks.

Diane Merwarth reported that the "My Sign Up" site for agape is being utilized and that the list for September is updated. A physical list will also be passed around at the gathering tonight. She will again 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.

Jack will announce at the Gathering tonight that we have a vacant position of Gathering Support on the Board and ask for nominations. One nomination has already been received.

Proposals for more communication with members, especially new pilgrims just off their walk were discussed. Diane Merwarth agreed to create an invitation letter to new pilgrims to join our Yahoo group, to sign up for team service and to become sponsors for future walks.

Team selections for the Spring 2010 Walks were approved by the board by e-mail. Bud agreed to publish the names of the Lay Directors, Servant Coordinators and Spiritual Directors for each 2010 walk.

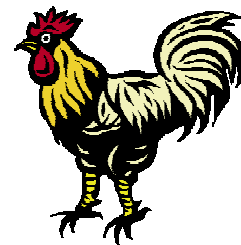
We currently have no one to provide childcare for the next walk in September. Diane will announce at the Gathering tonight that we need childcare providers and to please contact her to sign up. A motion by Bob Duplantis was approved on second by Bud Broeker to provide up to \$50 for gas for childcare providers.

New Business:

The date for the next LLDO is set for October 3, 2009.

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

Minutes submitted by: Gene McConnell, Assistant Lay Director



Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

September 2009

Thursday, September 3, 2009

Covenant UMC

4410 Duval Rd.

October 2009

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Oakhill UMC

7815 Highway 290, West

November 2009

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Northwest Hills UMC

7050 Village Center Dr.

December 2009

Thursday, December 3, 2009

TBA

Upcoming 2010 Dates:

January 2010

Thursday, January 7, 2010

February 2010

Thursday, February 4, 2010

March 2010

Thursday, March 4, 2010

April 2010

Thursday, April 1, 2010

May 2010

Thursday, May 6, 2010

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

Reminder: Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

Contact:
Assistant Lay Director
Gene McConnell
gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com