



## The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



November, 2009

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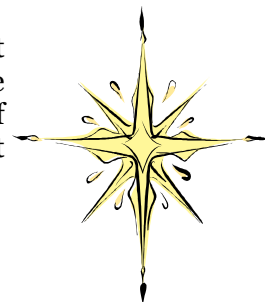


### Advent and The Walk to Emmaus

The "Walk to Emmaus" gets its name from Luke 24:13-35 recounting the story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As you can imagine, the disciples were overcome with sadness at the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus opened the eyes of the disciples lighting the fire of God's love in their hearts before ascending into heaven.

While the Walk to Emmaus represents the end of Jesus' physical journey on earth, Advent celebrates the beginning. Advent means "coming" or "arrival" of Jesus the Christ and the focus of the season is the birth of Jesus. We celebrate Advent as the spiritual journey of Christians as we affirm that Christ has come and will come again. Let us welcome the start of the journey to the "Walk to Emmaus".

DeColores! Jack Foreman, Lay Director  
Greater Austin Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group



### Listen to Him!

In a neighborhood in Bethlehem there was a lot of commotion in a neighbor's stable one night, strange lights, muffled voices, and then a baby's cry pierced the darkness. It was a plaintive, powerful cry for one so young.

Some 20 centuries later, many people think little more of Christmas than that, a lot of noise about the birth of a child. Much of the noise is unfocused noise that muffles the voice of Jesus. Children are chattering about this year's sensational toy. Hollywood is barking over its year-end offerings. And Wall Street is whining that we haven't spent enough this season. We live with this noise without taking stock of its spiritual toll.

The season of Advent is upon us. The Christmas clamor will soon begin to rise in our ears. The word *advent* is instructive. It means "*coming*." God Himself is coming. He comes with a message of Good News.

Perhaps it would be good to think of Advent less as a season of preparation and more as a season of receiving, or listening. God is the speaker. We are the listeners. We hear what God has to say through the Word and Sacraments. The tradition of adding a midweek service during Advent makes sense then. It is not just another obligation. It is an opportunity to listen to Him.

Of course, no one knows how much noise the newborn baby Jesus actually made. We do know that when the Word became flesh, He came to speak Good News of forgiveness in His name. During the season of Advent we prepare for His coming as we listen to Him. -- Rev. Terry Forke, LCMS Montana District

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

# 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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### 4<sup>th</sup> Day Board Representative

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### Assistant Lay Director

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### Board Member for Gathering Support

Sandy Brooks

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### Board Member for Walk Support

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### Board Member for Member Services

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### Treasurer

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### Immediate Past Lay Director

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### Chrysalis Representative

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### Weekend Follow-Up Coordinator

Lynn Hoermann

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### Registration Liaison

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### Database Coordinator

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### Prayer Vigil Coordinator

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### Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

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[bonnieharper@earthlink.net](mailto:bonnieharper@earthlink.net)

### Music Coordinator

Vacant

### Walk Talk Editor

Gina Franklin

970-1393

[franklingdom@gmail.com](mailto:franklingdom@gmail.com)



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



## The Walk Talk Deadline for January 2010 is December 27th!

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](mailto:franklingdom@gmail.com)

## Were You There?

There were **130** attendees at the November Gathering!

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!**

## 2010 Austin Sponsored Walks

### Men's Walk #1541      **February 11-14**

Keith Bible, Lay Director  
Val Sansing, Spiritual Director  
Don Greenway, Board Rep.  
Beth Bible, ST Coordinator

contact: [kbible@austin.rr.com](mailto:kbible@austin.rr.com)

contact: [lisbethmr@yahoo.com](mailto:lisbethmr@yahoo.com)

### Women's Walk #1555      **April 22-25**

Chris Weihl, Lay Director  
Jeannie Whitehurst, Spiritual Director  
Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.  
Sandy Brooks, ST Coordinator

contact: [cweihl@riverbend.com](mailto:cweihl@riverbend.com)

contact: [Sandy\\_brooks@dell.com](mailto:Sandy_brooks@dell.com)

### Men's Walk #1580      **October 7-11**

Gary Johnson, Lay Director  
Jack Foreman, Board Rep.

contact: [jcforeman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcforeman@sbcglobal.net)

### Women's Walk #1593      **November 18-21**

Diane Merwarth, Lay Director  
Cortney Smith, Board Rep.

contact: [dianemerwarth@att.net](mailto:dianemerwarth@att.net)

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:10-14 (NIV)



## Chrysalis News

### Time to Start Planning for Chrysalis!!

Calling all team members for an awesome adventure.

The Austin Chrysalis Community is sponsoring two Flights this summer:

**July 9, 2010:      Boys' Flight # 335 at Marble Falls UMC**

**July 23, 2010:      Girls' Flight # 339 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 Lay Directors or any member of the Chrysalis Next Steps Group.

Scholarships are available!



## **Greater Austin Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group Board of Directors Meeting**

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at Northwest Hills United Methodist Church. In attendance were: Gene McConnell – Assistant Lay Director; Bob Duplantis – Member Support; Sandy Brooks – Gathering Support; Diane Merwarth – Walk Support; Roxie Greenway – Treasurer; Pastor Georgia Stone – Spiritual Director; Leslie Smith – Immediate Past Lay Director. Also present: Joan King – Lay Director of Walk 1530.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Gene McConnell, with an opening prayer by Bob Duplantis. The minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as written by a motion by Diane Merwarth, seconded by Bob Duplantis. The finance report was given by Roxie Greenway, and was approved by a motion from Bob Duplantis with a second from Sandy Brooks. Ending balance as of 10/31/09 is \$4,933.66.

Joan King gave a report of Walk 1530, held October 22 – 25, 2009 at Highland Lakes Baptist Encampment. She reported having 25 pilgrims; one pilgrim (not included in the 25) became ill and was unable to complete the walk. The Welcome Back, held October 29, 2009 at St. Mark United Methodist Church was also very successful, with participation of many pilgrims and team. One safety issue was raised regarding the lack of lighting along one part of the path on the way to Candlelight. A reminder will be given to the Servant Team to ensure flashlights will be made available to light this section of the path.

Discussion of the “Mysignup” agape process determined that it was a successful endeavor, to be continued for the next walk. One suggestion which has been implemented was to organize the items by category.

Another follow up from Walk 1530 was mailing of a letter from the Board to welcome each new pilgrim and invite them to participate in GAE4thDG. This is intended to become a routine communication after each walk.

Sandy Brooks reported that host churches for 2010 Gatherings are being identified. Two churches are pending confirmation for January and February (The Rock and Crestview UMC respectively), and hosts for March and April are confirmed (Hyde Park UMC and Riverbend, respectively).

Discussion of the HLCCC contract and the search for alternative walk sites is ongoing.

The Board’s efforts to revitalize the Emmaus community and recruitment of sponsors and Pilgrims continues.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM with a closing prayer by Pastor Georgia Stone.  
Minutes submitted by: Gene McConnell, Assistant Lay Director

**Wishing the Emmaus Community  
a Blessed Christmas  
and a Safe Happy New Year!**



## **Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings**

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

### **December 2009**

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Tarrytown UMC  
2601 Exposition Blvd.



### **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.**

#### **Contact:**

**Assistant Lay Director**  
Gene McConnell

[gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com](mailto:gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com)

**Reminder:** Childcare Services are available  
at all Gatherings.