



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



July, 2010

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 21, Number 7

Chrysalis News

Please show your support for Chrysalis by joining Girl's Flight #335 at Candlelight on Friday July 9th at 8 pm, Marble Falls First United Methodist Church, 1101 Bluebonnet Drive.



Prayers for butterflies and team members on Chrysalis!!

The Austin Chrysalis Community is sponsoring two Flights this summer:

July 8-10, 2010: Girl's Flight # 335 at Marble Falls UMC

July 22-24, 2010: Boy's Flight # 339 at Marble Falls UMC

For more information contact Angela Cava at angela.cava@marriott.com or Cortney Smith at cortneymeister@gmail.com



GAE4DG Spiritual Director Message:

The Walk to Emmaus requires three things – faith, self-surrender and spirit of charity. Faith that something great is possible and will happen. Self surrender as we surrender ourselves to God and be truly present to Christ's working within us. And a spirit of charity and cooperation that binds it all together as we live in community and give ourselves fully to Christ. My pilgrim Walk was at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville, TX. I remember going up to the registration table where I signed in and got my name tag. Then I was whisked off to my room where my sponsor worked to get my things settled in my room before escorting me to a large room filled with 80 or so other women most of whom I didn't know. Then my sponsor gave me a hug and left me there – I was surrounded by people yet I felt completely alone. I felt like a kindergartner the first day of school.

Soon as the retreat began and the leaders were quick to instruct us "Don't anticipate, just participate!" that became our mantra during the entire weekend..."Don't anticipate...just participate!" This is really much harder than it seems, especially for us control freaks! It is in our nature to notice patterns and routines and begin to anticipate the next thing. Why in the world would it be a bad thing to anticipate? Here is why; it is when we are looking ahead that we often miss the blessing of the moment. When we anticipate we effectively close our minds and hearts to the possibilities God has in store and we limit the wonder and miracles of the moment. When we anticipate we get sidetracked and miss out on the opportunity to act now. We may lose focus and miss what is happening right in front of us. By running ahead we may just miss the moment of blessing!

"Don't anticipate...Just participate!" I'm still trying! All these years later this Walk to Emmaus lesson is still so important to me. With God's help, every day I will participate fully in life. I will live in the moment. I will be fully present and aware of the many gifts of love, life and grace that God is giving me right now!

DeColores! Pastor Cheryl

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2010/2011 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Gene McConnell

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Spiritual Director

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Vacant

Walk Talk Editor

Gina Franklin

franklingdom@gmail.com



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



The Walk Talk Deadline for August 2010 is July 25th!

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!

GAE4DG Lay Director Message:

As the Board for GAE4DG enters a new year, our focus turns to encouraging all members to get more involved in the Emmaus movement. The primary purpose of Emmaus is to develop Christ-centered, servant leaders. A tremendous part of the leadership development in Emmaus, is through the post-Walk involvement in the community and serving on teams. The board believes we should be continually developing leaders, and engaging as many people in the community as possible in reasonable roles of responsibility. Towards that goal, the Board has formed committees to make sure all the necessary tasks that fall under each Board position are covered. One reason to divide the tasks up is so they can more easily be accomplished and no one person carries the entire load. It also provides more opportunities for pilgrims to get involved in leadership roles. Below is a list of the Board positions and the committee roles that fall under each Board position. Many of the committee roles are filled, but some are new and we need volunteers to handle that responsibility. Each month we will give a short summary of the responsibilities that fall under one of the Board positions. This month we will start with my position as Lay Director of GAE4DG.

Board Positions and corresponding committees/roles under that position:

Lay Director

-GAE4DG Board

Assistant Lay Director

-Nominations Committee

Gathering Support

-Communion Steward

-Host Church Coordinator

-Music Leader Coordinator

Walk Support

-Conference Room Agape Letter Coordinator

-Walk Food/Agape Coordinator

-Prayer Vigil Coordinator

-Welcome Back/Weekend Follow-up Coordinator

Member Services

-Electronic Communications

-Membership Secretary

-WalkTalk Editor

-Reunion Group Coordinator

Treasurer

-Accountant/Bookkeeper

Board Representative to SWTXC

-Team Selection Committee

-Registration

Chrysalis Representative

Immediate Past Lay Director

Spiritual Director



The Lay Director is responsible for leading the 4th Day Group; leading Gatherings; presiding over and leading board meetings; welcoming new pilgrims at closing of each walk; and serving on the Team Selection Committee.

Grace and Peace, Gene McConnell <><
GAE4DG Lay Director

2010 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk #1580	October 7-10	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
Gary Johnson, Lay Director		contact: gary.johnson360@yahoo.com
Monte Marshall, Spiritual Director		
Jack Foreman, Board Rep.		contact: jcforeman@sbcglobal.net
Sherry Wilkison, ST Coordinator		contact: rwilkison@austin.rr.com
Women's Walk #1593	November 18-21	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
Diane Merwarth, Lay Director		contact: dianemerwarth@att.net
Veda White, Spiritual Director		
Cortney Smith, Board Rep.		contact: cortneymeister@gmail.com
Bud Broeker, ST Coordinator		contact: bbroeker@austin.rr.com

The Road

The road of life is winding...
Over hills and through valleys.
Unexpected detours are taken
And unintended stops are made.
We may deviate from our usual routine,
Take an alternate route, a bypass,
Allowing us to share our path with others
And experience a sliver of time as it was intended,
While providing a sense of community
And an opportunity to experience compassion
As we are embraced by loving arms,
Giving us a means of participating,
A way of contributing.

Words are spoken and heard.
Friendships are formed.
Trust is exhibited and accepted,
And for a moment—
Our own troubles may seem trivial
As we learn the struggles of others,
Because we all have difficulties...at one time or another.
It just depends where we are
On our journey when our paths crossed,
And which story we felt led to share at that moment in time.
Empathy and heartfelt feelings are freely offered—
Out of kindness, out of love, out of genuine concern—
All from the example of Christ living within us.

Yet afterwards, where will we travel?
Which road will we take along our journey?
How will we get to our destination?
Will we continue in our newfound friendships,
Remembering the closeness we felt
And the acceptance which was generously given
For exactly who we are, not who we pretend to be?
Or will we choose a separate path,
One of individualism and atrophy?

God brought us together,
To come to know one another,
To develop unique and special friendships,
To benefit from sharing our lives and emotions,
Whether happy or sad, joyful or painful.
We all need support as we travel down this winding road of life...
There is a method to the madness
And a purpose—God's purpose.

Though our lives may fade in and out,
I pray we will always remember our blessed connection
And how we held hands,
Forming one circle of love,
Bound by the power of the Holy Spirit,
Singing this hymn of praise with hearts full of thanksgiving,
"Have you seen Jesus my Lord?
He's here in plain view.
Take a look, open your eyes,
He'll show it to you..."

As we celebrated Christ the King, our Lord and Savior.
His cross is the connecting pathway—
Bringing comfort and peace, community and fellowship,
While providing the opportunity of hope within our hearts.

As you continue to travel your road of life,
Strive to hold onto Truth
And appreciate our sacred gift of togetherness,
God's gift to us...
Encompassed by His Grace.

De Colores—With Love,
Salli Smith

Agape Signup Online

The signup for Men's Walk to Emmaus #1580 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1580agape

The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1593 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1593agape

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 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 button.

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.



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: July 31, 2010

Location: First UMC, Kerrville TX

Date: August 14, 2010

Location: First UMC, San Angelo TX

Date: October 2, 2010

Location: First UMC, Corpus Christi TX

Date: November 13, 2010

Location: Coker UMC, San Antonio TX

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.

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group - Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, June 10 at Riverbend Church. In attendance were: Gene McConnell – Lay Director; Sandy Brooks – Assistant Lay Director; Bob Duplantis – Member Support; Diane Merwarth – Walk Support; Roxie Greenway – Treasurer; Bud Broeker – SWTC Board Representative; Cortney Smith – Chrysalis Board Representative; Pastor Cheryl Broome – Spiritual Director; Jack Foreman – Immediate Past Lay Director.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Gene McConnell, with an opening prayer by Cortney Smith. The minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as written on a motion by Bob Duplantis, seconded by Jack Foreman.

The Board welcomed the new Spiritual Director, Cheryl Broome.

The finance report was given by Roxie Greenway, and was approved by a motion from Diane Merwarth with a second from Bob Duplantis. Ending balance as of 5/31/10 is \$4536.87.

Bud Broeker gave a conference report. Walk Flight Leadership training is scheduled for July 31. Proposed leadership for 2011 walks was presented. February Women's Walk Lay Director – Lori Foster, Board Rep – Sandy Brooks; March Men's Walk Lay Director – Rocky Wilcox, Board Rep – Bud Broeker; September Women's Walk Lay Director – Gina Franklin; Board Rep – Roxie Greenway; October Men's Walk Lay Director – Jack Foreman, Board Rep Gene McConnell. A motion was made by Bob Duplantis and seconded by Diane Merwarth to approve the 2011 Walk leadership. The motion passed. Bud Broeker will follow up with the conference to obtain the contract with Camp Young Judea. Bob Duplantis will prepare a list of guidelines for the walks at CYJ. The Board discussed their concerns with The Gift which is to be presented at Welcome Back following each Walk. Gene McConnell and Jack Foreman will draft a letter to the SW Conference Board regarding the Board's position on the requirement to present The Gift.

Gene McConnell asked each Board member to prepare a list of positions to report to them and to begin recruiting members to those positions. Roxie will assist in defining the various positions reporting to each Board member.

Diane Merwarth announced that we do not have child care scheduled for the next few walks for candlelight or closing. Cheryl Broome asked that we create a committee position to address this issue so that child care can be provided on Walks. Diane announced that she will be setting up a book and information table at each gathering.

Bob Duplantis reported that he is continuing to obtain the necessary information to set up a different email messaging system.

Cortney Smith reported that there are currently 10 butterflies scheduled on the girls Flight in July, but that help is needed on the cook team for the boys Flight.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM with a closing prayer by Pastor Cheryl Broome.

Heat and Humidity

In our part of the country summer brings sweltering heat and high humidity. We walk out of an air-conditioned building and face a blast furnace of hot, humid air. Sweat begins to pour out and we hurry to seek air-conditioned shelter. Heat and humidity create an environment that controls our life.

Christians face the "heat and humidity" of a hostile world. Our Lord warned His disciples to expect persecution. Peter speaks of a "fiery trial" the early Christians could expect (1 Peter 4). We too face a culture that causes us trouble. But within the fellowship of God's people we gather around Word and Sacrament, experiencing God's cool refreshment before we walk out into the hostile world. As Jesus tells His disciples, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16)

When faced with the blast furnace of temptation and ridicule, we begin to sweat. But Jesus, who resolutely faced the world's hatred and went to the cross in payment for our sins, offers us strength to face the world's heat and humidity. We can live boldly in the midst of the world's anti-Christian culture as He continues to refresh us in the air-conditioning of worship with God's people.

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty. But what I truly prize Above all things is he, My Jesus, he alone. What is the world to me!

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

July 2010

Thursday, July 1, 2010
University UMC
2409 Guadalupe Street

August 2010

Thursday, August 5, 2010
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road

September 2010

Thursday, September 2, 2010

October 2010

Thursday, October 7, 2010

November 2010

Thursday, November 4, 2010
Oak Hill UMC
7815 W. Hwy 290

December 2010

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Reminder: Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

Contact:

Board Member for Gathering Support

Myles McKemie

myles.mckemie@ergon.com

