



# The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



January, 2011

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 22, Number 1

## Emmaus Walk 1597

Women's Walk #1597 will take place February 10-13, at Camp Young Judaea.

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

Lori Foster – <i>Lay Director</i>	Colleen Haley – <i>Spiritual Director</i>	Sandy Brooks – <i>Board Rep.</i>
Beth Brannan	Steph Bridwell	Madaline Henners
Debby Duplantis	Edie Ellis	Gail Gibson
Jan Horton	Debby Krueger	Annie Lancaster
Monte Marshall	Joyce McCormick	Chris McKemie
Patricia Ruth	Chris Weihl	Connie Whiting
		Judy Yemington
		Tina Carter
		Connie Cowan
		Panate Griffin
		Gabby Guy
		Sarah Lancaster
		Tami Pharr

## Potential Sponsors!

Walk 1597 is but 6 weeks away and we need **pilgrims** for this walk. Please give prayerful consideration to who you might sponsor for this walk and get the process moving as quickly as possible.

Once again we challenge each Reunion Group to sponsor at least one pilgrim for this walk, the deadline for the walk to make is 4 weeks away and we need to have at least 20 pilgrims by 27<sup>th</sup> of January. This challenge, of course, extends to individuals as well. Let's get busy and get the pilgrim applications in to the SWTX Emmaus Registrar.

Don't forget that the Greater Austin Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group has 1/3 scholarships available, download the form at <http://www.austinemmaus.org/reg.php>

### LOCAL LAY DIRECTOR ORIENTATION (LLDO)

February 5, 2011

8:00a-1:00p

First United Methodist Church, Pflugerville

LLDO is a half-day session for Greater Austin Emmaus Walk Leadership teams (any and all team members, but especially for LD, BdRep, OTC, and ALDs), OR for anyone who is interested in what it takes to lead a Walk. LLDO does not replace the SWTX Emmaus Walk/Flight Leadership Training, but rather adds a local component to the training. Every 4DG has its "local color" and every site has its particular quirks. Some of the topics covered are site specifics, money in/money out, closing out a Walk, music, etc.

A LLDO session is currently scheduled for **Feb 5, 2011**, at First UMC Pflugerville. We gather for fellowship from 8:00-8:30 and get started promptly at 8:30, finishing up about 1:00.

Note: If Fall 2011 Walk leadership cannot attend Feb 5, please let Kathy Shaw know and we will try to get another LLDO scheduled.

Please register with Kathy Shaw at [kathyshaw@swbell.net](mailto:kathyshaw@swbell.net), so she'll know how many to prepare for. Use LLDO as the subject line. Registration cut off is 2 weeks prior to each session so reserved space at the church can be released if not needed.

# Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

## 2010/2011 Board of Directors and Volunteers

### Lay Director

Gene McConnell

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

### Spiritual Director

Rev. Cheryl Broome

[Cabroome01@aol.com](mailto:Cabroome01@aol.com)

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

Jim Anthony

[jim-anthony@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jim-anthony@sbcglobal.net)

### Assistant Lay Director

Sandy Brooks

[Sandy\\_Brooks@Dell.com](mailto:Sandy_Brooks@Dell.com)

### Board Member for Gathering Support

Myles McKemie

[myles.mckemie@ergon.com](mailto:myles.mckemie@ergon.com)

### Board Member for Walk Support

Diane Merwarth

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

### Board Member for Member Services

Bob Duplantis

[Bob@BoDeb.com](mailto:Bob@BoDeb.com)

### Treasurer

Roxie Greenway

[roxieg@austin.rr.com](mailto:roxieg@austin.rr.com)

### Immediate Past Lay Director

Jack Foreman

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

### Chrysalis Representative

Cortney Smith

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

### Registration Liaison

Ted Shaw

[tedshaw@swbell.net](mailto:tedshaw@swbell.net)

### Database Coordinator

Bud Broeker

[bbroeker@austin.rr.com](mailto:bbroeker@austin.rr.com)

### Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Dana Ripley

[rip@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rip@sbcglobal.net)

### Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Tom Rioux

[rioux@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:rioux@mail.utexas.edu)

### Music Coordinators

Nickie Hyde and

Tom Carstarphen

[nickie.ji@yahoo.com](mailto:nickie.ji@yahoo.com)

### Walk Talk Editor

Gina Franklin

[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 February 2011 is January 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](mailto: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!**

## 2011 Austin Sponsored Walks

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Women's Walk #1597</b> <b>February 10-13</b><br>Lori Foster, Lay Director<br>Coleen Haley, Spiritual Director<br>Sandy Brooks, Board Rep.<br>Bob Duplantis, ST Coordinator | <b>Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley</b><br>contact: <a href="mailto:lfoster@austinnetworking.com">lfoster@austinnetworking.com</a><br><br>contact: <a href="mailto:Sandy_Brooks@Dell.com">Sandy_Brooks@Dell.com</a><br>contact: <a href="mailto:bob@bodeb.com">bob@bodeb.com</a>                       |
| <b>Men's Walk #1607</b> <b>March 24-27</b><br>Rocky Wilcox, Lay Director<br>Tina Carter, Spiritual Director<br>Bud Broeker, Board Rep.<br>Susan Wilcox, ST Coordinator        | <b>Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley</b><br>contact: <a href="mailto:rwilcox44@austin.rr.com">rwilcox44@austin.rr.com</a><br><br>contact: <a href="mailto:bbroeker@austin.rr.com">bbroeker@austin.rr.com</a><br>contact: <a href="mailto:rwilcox44@austin.rr.com">rwilcox44@austin.rr.com</a>           |
| <b>Women's Walk</b> <b>Sept. 22-25</b><br>Gina Franklin, Lay Director<br>Cindy Layton, Spiritual Director<br>Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.<br>Nancy Minchew, ST Coordinator      | <b>Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley</b><br>contact: <a href="mailto:franklingdom@gmail.com">franklingdom@gmail.com</a><br><br>contact: <a href="mailto:roxieg@austin.rr.com">roxieg@austin.rr.com</a><br>contact: <a href="mailto:nancyminchew@gmail.com">nancyminchew@gmail.com</a>                   |
| <b>Men's Walk</b> <b>Oct. 20-23</b><br>Jack Foreman, Lay Director<br>Monte Marshall, Spiritual Director<br>Gene McConnell, Board Rep.<br>Kathy Shaw, ST Coordinator           | <b>Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley</b><br>contact: <a href="mailto:jcforeman@sbcglobal.net">jcforeman@sbcglobal.net</a><br><br>contact: <a href="mailto:gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com">gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com</a><br>contact: <a href="mailto:kathyshaw@swbell.net">kathyshaw@swbell.net</a> |

## Agape Signup Online

**The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1597 is:** [www.mysignup.com/walk1597agape](http://www.mysignup.com/walk1597agape)

**The signup for Men's Walk to Emmaus #1607 is:** [www.mysignup.com/walk1607agape](http://www.mysignup.com/walk1607agape)

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.

### Little Surprises, Lasting Effects

Have you ever started to look for one thing, and wound up finding a better thing? If so, you have experienced serendipity.

In 1827 John Walker spent the day mixing chemicals. He scraped a mixing stick across the stones ... the stick burst into flame. He'd discovered the first match -- serendipity.

In the 1940's Percy Spencer worked around a magnetron and felt the chocolate bar in his pocket melt. Bingo! His discovery led to the first microwave.

Around the same time George de Mestral paused during a mountain hike to pull some burrs off his socks. Intrigued at their sticking power, he looked at the burrs under a microscope and came up with Velcro.

The greatest serendipity of all is when a sinful soul meets Jesus. You will find examples in the New Testament ...

A Samaritan woman went to the town well looking for water; when Jesus found her, she ended up with forgiveness. Peter went out in his boat looking for fish; once Jesus found him, Peter started to fish for souls. Mary Magdalene sat before an open tomb looking for her teacher's body and, her resurrected, death-defeating Savior found her.

The greatest serendipity of all is when a sinful soul meets Jesus. Even today, Jesus still seeks out the unsatisfied searchers of this world. To those who find themselves lonely even in the midst of a crowd, Jesus offers true friendship. To those who are afraid, Jesus brings peace which passes human understanding. To those whose consciences continuously accuse them, Jesus comes and, with hands of love, holds out the forgiveness which He alone can give.

De Colores!                      Gerard Kern

# Austin Community Opportunities and Missions

I am happy to add this new section to the WalkTalk for area-wide opportunities and missions that are available to anyone within our Emmaus Community. This can be for group studies, conferences, missions, or just special events happening at your church that are open to everyone. My hope is this section will give leaders of events a place to inform the community of opportunities.

If you would like your events to be listed in the WalkTalk, please send the information to [franklingdom@gmail.com](mailto:franklingdom@gmail.com). The WalkTalk is published the first week of every month, deadlines are listed on Page 2.

Thank You, Gina Franklin, WalkTalk Editor

## 2010 Haiti Mission Trip Witness

I was 1 of 10 Central Texans that went on a Southwest Texas Conference sponsored United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trip to Haiti on October 6-14, 2010, to help rebuild housing. It took all of the first and last day to fly to and from Austin and Port-au-Prince. We stayed at the Methodist Guest House in Petion-Ville (a suburb of Port-au-Prince about 5 miles east of the palace) and worked at Carrefour (a suburb of Port-au-Prince about 5 miles west of the palace). The daily commute took 1 hour. We worked 5 days removing debris using pick axe, shovels, 5 gallon buckets, and a wheelbarrow. We drank only bottled water the entire time.

One day our Haitian interpreter Joseph said

You really don't understand why I am so thankful to God for your team... for all the teams. I am grateful because it is hard to live in Haiti, even before the earthquake. It is hard to walk the streets and see the people hungry and searching for something to eat; to see children playing in trash, and water running down the road from the houses. It is hard to live in a place that you love, but that breaks your heart and makes your spirit sink. Since we won our freedom, each election we vote hoping that the new leaders will help the people, but it has not happened. It gets harder and harder to convince friends and family members to vote because nothing ever changes. The powerful take the money and do not improve the lives of the people. I vote because I am a Haitian, but then I feel bad when someone I voted for disappoints the people again. And then there was the earthquake, and everything became much worse. When we watch television, we see pictures of other places in the world, and it is easy to believe that Haiti is forgotten. Or that maybe God has made Haiti the world's trashcan and its people don't matter. I know that isn't true, but sometimes it is easy to think that. I know that Jesus came for all people, for me and for you; that God loves all people, me and you, and everybody in the world. But it is easy to be discouraged by what you see around you. Sometimes you have to work hard to hold on to hope and to live what your faith tells you. I am thankful for your team and others because by coming you remind us that we matter. When you work with us and talk with us and worship with us, you are saying that it is true – Christ's love is for EVERYONE.

A very close friend of mine asked "Why didn't you just write a check for \$2,000 and send it?". As Joseph expressed, money could not have done what our presence in Haiti accomplished.

On **February 7-16, 2011**, I will lead a **Westlake United Methodist Church Haiti Mission Trip**. The trip is limited to 10 people. You can express your interest in going on this mission trip, your financial support (American Airlines Frequent Flyer Miles and/or money), and your spiritual support (the Prayer Team).

Contact Tom Rioux at [rioux@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:rioux@mail.utexas.edu) for information. There are 7 slots open to anyone interested in going on this mission.

Enjoy the God who loves you more than you ever dreamed possible. He will take your breath away!

God loves us more than we know. He gives us more than we can ask or dream. He's unrestrained... Excessive... outrageous... Over the Top.

WOMEN OF FAITH  
**Over the Top**

Have you ever come on anything quite like the extravagant generosity of God...? (Ephesians 1:3-6)

San Antonio, TX  
October 21-22, 2011 Alamodome

Over the Top weekend  
Friday 10:00 am - 3:30 pm  
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

The 2010's Women of Faith conference was AWESOME! I can't even begin to describe how wonderful it is to worship in an arena with your friends and 14,000 other ladies.

This year, Nancy Minchew is gathering a group of ladies for the 2011 conference in San Antonio: Friday, October 21, 10:00am - 3:30pm & 7:00pm - 10:00pm; and Saturday, October 22, 9:00am - 5:00pm at the Alamodome. Speakers are Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg, Lisa Whelchel, Sandi Patty, Nicole Johnson and Andy Andrews, with musical guests Mandisa and Amy Grant. We want you to put it on your calendar now - and commit to coming with us.

This year we are offering a new option. We ANTICIPATE the cost of the conference will be around \$175. This is for tickets, lunches on Friday and Saturday, hotel, transportation, and a group t-shirt. The ONLY item that will not be covered is dinner on Friday evening. Payment options are available.

Tell your friends and family - we have plenty of room for everyone that wants to attend. TELL NANCY ASAP! We will suggest a \$20 deposit to hold your spot. That way, we know how many tickets to pre-order.

Please Contact Group Leader: Nancy Minchew [nancyminchew@gmail.com](mailto:nancyminchew@gmail.com)

## 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 4, 2010 at Oak Hill United Methodist Church. In attendance were: Gene McConnell – Lay Director; Bob Duplantis – Member Support; Myles McKemie – Gathering Support; Diane Merwarth – Walk Support; Jim Anthony – Board Rep; Sandy Brooks – Assistant Lay Director; Roxie Greenway – Treasurer, and Gary Johnson, Lay Director on Walk 1580.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Gene McConnell. The minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as read by a motion by Myles McKemie, seconded by Bob Duplantis.

The treasurer's report was presented by Roxie Greenway and was approved unanimously upon a motion by Diane Merwarth with a second from by Bob Duplantis.

Ending balance in the General Fund as of 10/31/10: \$4,682.07

Ending balance in the Scholarship Fund as of 10/31/10: \$514.73

Upon motion by Bob Duplantis and seconded by Diane Merwarth, the board unanimously agreed that after a walk has closed, the scholarship fund be brought up to a minimum balance of \$500. The current contribution of 10% of the money from gathering offering will continue to be placed in the scholarship fund.

Jim Anthony reported the request for walks was submitted to the Southwest Conference and the leadership form has also been submitted. Jim Anthony further announced that training is currently scheduled for November 13 and 26, 2010, March 26, 2011 and April 2, 2011. The Southwest Conference recommends that all team ALDs and outside team coordinators also attend training prior participating in a walk.

Jim Anthony announced that the current clergy list needs to be updated. The Board requested that Spiritual Director Cheryl Broome address updating the list of clergy from Austin.

Jim Anthony reported that the Upper Room has replaced the DVD used on Walks with a new and updated movie that is 8-10 minutes in length. Walk schedules will need to be adjusted to reflect the shorter timeframe. The new movie will be used beginning 1/1/2011. The Board agreed to order 2 copies of the new DVD.

Jim Anthony reported that the executive committee recommended that couples working on the same team not sleep together at the Walk. Jim Anthony further announced that the Southwest Conference has changed the deadline to determine if a Walk has made from noon on the Thursday two weeks prior to the start date of the walk to 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday two weeks prior to the start date of the walk. Jim will inquire how to submit last minute pilgrim applications.

Gary Johnson, lay director to walk 1580, presented his walk report to the Board.

Jim Anthony announced that the Southwest Conference discussed the issue of prayer vigils and requested diligence in getting the prayer vigil sheets back timely for all walks.

Myles McKemie reported that he is still in need of a child care coordinator for candlelight and for gatherings.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. to attend the gathering.

There were 121 people in attendance at the gathering.

### SWTX Walk/Flight Leadership Training Sessions

To register for an Emmaus Leadership Training Event please go to [www.swtxumc.org/emmaus](http://www.swtxumc.org/emmaus) or contact Emmaus Register at: [Emmaus@umcswtx.org](mailto:Emmaus@umcswtx.org)

**Date:** February 26, 2011, Manchaca UMC, Austin TX

**Date:** March 26, 2011, First UMC, Victoria TX

**Date:** April 2, 2011, First UMC, Johnson City TX

## Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

### January 2011

Thursday, January 6, 2011  
First UMC Austin  
Lavaca Street & 12th Street

### Reminder:

Childcare Services are available  
at all Gatherings.

### February 2011

Thursday, February 3, 2011  
Lake Travis UMC  
1502 North RR 620

### Contact:

Board Member for Gathering Support  
Myles McKemie  
[myles.mckemie@ergon.com](mailto:myles.mckemie@ergon.com)

### March 2011

Thursday, March 3, 2011  
Westlake UMC  
1460 Redbud Trail



### April 2011

Thursday, April 7, 2011  
Crestview UMC  
1300 Morrow Street