



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



May, 2011

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 22, Number 5

Board News!



The Nominations Committee presents these nominees for board position to be voted on at the May Gathering. Nominations will be accepted from the community at the Gathering. The nominees are:

Gary Johnson Bobby Callison Anne Rioux

The GAE community would like to thank Jack Foreman, Diane Merwath, and Jim Anthony for their hard work on the board.

Board members are also looking for volunteers to work on the different committees. Please contact any board member for a list of opportunities.



2011 Austin Sponsored Walks

Women's Walk #1629 **Sept. 22-25**

Gina Franklin, Lay Director
Cindy Layton, Spiritual Director
Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.
Nancy Minchew, ST Coordinator

Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

contact: franklingdom@gmail.com

contact: roxieg@austin.rr.com

contact: nancyminchew@gmail.com

Men's Walk # 1640 **Oct. 20-23**

Jack Foreman, Lay Director
Monte Marshall, Spiritual Director
Gene McConnell, Board Rep.
Kathy Shaw, ST Coordinator

Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

contact: jcforeman@sbcglobal.net

contact: gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com

contact: kathyshaw@swbell.net



Chrysalis News

Time to Start Planning for Chrysalis!!

The Chrysalis Community is sponsoring two Flights this summer:

Girl's Flight # 346

Steph Bridwell, Lay Director

June 16, 2011

Val Sansing, Spiritual Director

Cathedral Oaks

Boy's Flight # 353

Tim Deschner, Lay Director

July 28, 2011

Kyle Toomire, Spiritual Director

Austin First UMC

Registration forms are posted on the SWTX Conference website:

<http://www.umcswtx.org/mw-chrysalis.html>

or you may contact any member of the Chrysalis Next Steps Group.

Scholarships are available!



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2010/2011 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Gene McConnell

gene.mcconnell@jicompanies.com

Spiritual Director

Rev. Cheryl Broome

Cabroome01@aol.com

4th Day Board Representative

Jim Anthony

jim-anthony@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Lay Director

Sandy Brooks

Sandy_Brooks@Dell.com

Board Member for Gathering Support

Myles McKemie

myles.mckemie@ergon.com

Board Member for Walk Support

Diane Merwarth

dianemerwarth@att.net

Board Member for Member Services

Bob Duplantis

Bob@BoDeb.com

Treasurer

Roxie Greenway

roxieg@austin.rr.com

Immediate Past Lay Director

Jack Foreman

jcforeman@sbcglobal.net

Chrysalis Representative

Cortney Smith

cortneymeister@gmail.com

Registration Liaison

Ted Shaw

tedshaw@swbell.net

Database Coordinator

Bud Broeker

bbroeker@austin.rr.com

Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Dana Ripley

rip@sbcglobal.net

Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Tom Rioux

rioux@mail.utexas.edu

Music Coordinators

Nickie Hyde and

Tom Carstarphen

nickie.ji@yahoo.com

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 June 2011 is May 20th!

Please send your articles, Community Opportunities,
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!

Message from Community Spiritual Director

"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.'" Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV).

Rabbi Marc Gafni recalled one of the first bar mitzvahs he ever performed. It was for a boy named Louis. Louis was awkward and sad. His insensitive parents did little to encourage his self-esteem. They implied that he was too dumb to learn the traditional Hebrew passages a boy recites for his bar mitzvah.

Rabbi Gafni was determined to bring out the best in Louis. He spent extra time teaching him the songs and prayers. He discovered that Louis was smart, and had a fantastic singing voice. On the day of his bar mitzvah, Louis performed beautifully. At the end of the ceremony, Rabbi Gafni stood and spoke directly to Louis. He said, "Louis, this morning you met your real self. This is who you are. You are good, graceful, talented, and smart. Whatever people told you yesterday, and Louis, whatever happens tomorrow, promise me one thing, that you will remember. Remember ... this is you. Remember, and don't ever lose it."

A few years later, Louis wrote to Rabbi Gafni. The boy whose parents predicted that he was too dumb to perform a traditional bar mitzvah was studying for his medical degree at an Ivy League university. He was also engaged to be married. Louis ended his letter by saying, 'I kept my promise—I always remembered my bar mitzvah morning when you said that this is who I am. For this, I thank you.'*

I hope that you have had a Rabbi Gafni kind of spiritual leader in your life. Someone who pointed you toward the talents and gifts that God has given you! (Yes, you!) However, if you did not have a pastoral cheerleader as Louis did, no matter what you have been told in the past or what you have come to believe about yourself, always remember that God loves you totally with an everlasting love. Yesterday, today and tomorrow God believes in you absolutely. God wants you to believe in yourself so that you will, with God's help, become all that you are meant to be in this world.

Let us pray: "Dear God, as you told the ancient Israelites that you loved them with an everlasting love thank you that you say the same to your followers today. Help me to experience your love and affirmation at the very core of my being so that I will be a better servant. Help me God in all that I am and do, so that my life will bring glory and honor to your name. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

DeColores! ` Pastor Cheryl

For counsel, prayer or spiritual care you may email Pastor Cheryl at Cabroome01@aol.com

* Marc Gafni, *The Mystery of Love* (New York: Atria Books, 2003), pp. 120-121.



Register Your Pilgrims NOW for Upcoming GAE Walks!

Greater Austin Emmaus is sponsoring two fall walks in 2011.

Women's Walk #1629 on September 22 – 25; Gina Franklin is the Lay Director and Cindy Layton is the Spiritual Director. Men's Walk #1640 on October 20 – 23; Jack Foreman is the Lay Director and Monte Marshall is the Spiritual Director. Both fall Walks will be held at Camp Young Judaea in Wimberly.

GAE expects these Walks to fill up quickly, so please register your Pilgrims right away. You can download a Pilgrim registration form from the GAE website: www.austinemmaus.org. Click the Forms link in the left-hand menu and the Emmaus application is first on the list.

The registration fee for both walks is \$210. GAE has scholarship funds available, as do many of the Austin area churches, so do not let the price be a reason for not signing up a pilgrim. You can get a GAE scholarship application form using the same link to Forms as above. The scholarship form is third on the list. The GAE Board is eager to work with any sponsor to locate assistance for a Pilgrim's registration fee.

If you are a first-time sponsor or if you just have questions about being a good sponsor, GAE has packets available with lots of information on sponsorship. Contact any GAE Board member if you would like a sponsorship packet. These packets also are available at every GAE monthly Gathering.

See you at the Walk!

De Colores!

The GAE Board

Agape Signup Online

The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1629 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1629agape

The signup for Men's Walk to Emmaus #1640 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1640agape

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.



No Longer Captive: Alleluia!

Jesus, who was made sin for us, dies with the dignity of a condemned criminal bearing our shame. Handed over to wicked men, Jesus is stripped, beaten, and pinned to a cross where He dies as one judged guilty. Yet in this single death, sin is atoned for by the blood of God's Son. Death is defeated, not by a raw act of God's power, but by the Passion of God's Son -- the suffering that submits to death, and in doing so destroys death, for where sin is removed the last enemy has lost its grip on sinners.

All of us will die. Unbelievers die in their sins. The consummation of such dying is hell. Believers die to their sins. The consummation of such dying is heaven. The forgiveness of sins bestows the gift of resurrection to life everlasting. Embedded in the absolution is the promise of the resurrection. When you hear your pastor speak those words, you are given the gift of your own resurrection ahead of time. When you hear the absolution, Christ Jesus is telling you your sins will not hold you captive in the grave.

Easter robs death of the dignity it claims for itself. We are freed from the mythologies of our culture that would seek to give us power over death. Easter give us something far better. Easter gives us a sure and certain word: Jesus died for your sins. It is a word that gives life to the dead, and it is for you.

He is Risen! Alleluia!

De Colores! Gerard Kern

Austin Community Opportunities and Missions

This section is for area-wide opportunities and missions that are available to anyone within our Emmaus Community.

If you would like your events to be listed in the WalkTalk, please send the information to 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

WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE:

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 \$185. 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! She will get you the needed information to sign up.

Please Contact Group Leader: Nancy Minchew nancyminchew@gmail.com

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

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at Hyde Park Christian Church. In attendance were: Gene McConnell – Lay Director, Cheryl Broome – Spiritual Director, Roxie Greenway – Treasurer, Jim Anthony – Board Rep, Diane Merwarth – Walk Support, Bob Duplantis – Member Support, Myles McKemie – Gathering Support, Tim Deschner – Chrysalis, Kathy Robbins – Chrysalis, Steph Bridwell – Chrysalis.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Gene McConnell, with an opening prayer by Jim Anthony. The minutes of the previous Board Meeting were amended, with clarification that the training referred to by Cheryl is training for clergy by the Conference Board of Directors, and is required one time only. This is not the same as the WFLT, which is required every 3 years for clergy. The minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Diane Merwarth, seconded by Cheryl Broome.

The finance report was given by Roxie Greenway, and was approved unanimously upon a motion by Bob Duplantis with a second from Myles McKemie.

Ending balance as of 2/28/11: \$4559.71.

Jim reminded the Board that it is imperative that the Greater Austin 4th Day Group obtain a Tax ID number, and discontinue use of the conference number immediately. Bob reports that he has started an application for this number, and will submit it when completed. Once the Tax ID number has been provided, establishing non-profit status will be pursued.

Myles reviewed upcoming Gatherings, including the April Gathering at Crestview. He states childcare for this Gathering has not yet been finalized.

Diane Merwarth reports that there will be child care available for Candlelight for Walk 1607. A printed agape list will be distributed at the gathering.

Gene reported that information received at the recent WFLT identified some changes related to Walks. One change is that the team selection committee is also tasked with identifying potential Assistant Spiritual Directors for the Spiritual Director to select. The Board determined that they will work with the Walk Spiritual Director to review the list of clergy who are qualified to serve, and request that the SD submit the finalized list to the Board to verify that all ASD's are indeed qualified to serve. The other major change is that the Board Rep for the Walk should be the only Board member who serves on the conference room team. Questions were raised regarding where these requirements are written so that this 4th Day Group Board can ensure compliance with the Emmaus policies.

Tim and Kathy report that the Chrysalis Next Steps group is in the process of finalizing all of their Board members, including Treasurer. Once the final positions are filled, the Chrysalis board will communicate with GAE4D Board on how the Emmaus contributions to Chrysalis are utilized. It was decided that the GAE4D Board will discontinue mailing checks from the monthly Gatherings until the Chrysalis Treasurer is in place. The amount dedicated to Chrysalis will be tracked, and a check for the total amount will be sent when the Chrysalis Board notifies GAE4D that the Treasurer is ready to process the funds.

There was also discussion regarding identification of a Chrysalis Board member to serve on the Emmaus Board; this discussion is ongoing. Jim informed the Board that there will be a training session at the next Conference Board meeting on April 9 to explain the relationship between Emmaus and Chrysalis. All Board members are invited to attend. Tim also announced that they will be promoting the upcoming Flights this summer and requested help in recruiting butterflies, especially boys as the last 2 boys flights have been cancelled because not enough boys registered. He also announced the next Hoot will be March 25 at Tarrytown UMC.

Gene announced for Sandy that the Nominations committee, comprised of Sandy, Gene McConnell, Beth Bible, Gary Johnson and Don Greenway, will meet next Tuesday to identify potential Board members for positions that will need to be filled for the next Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM with a closing prayer by Cheryl Broome.
Respectfully submitted. Diane Merwarth

Addendum: there were 85 people in attendance at Gathering.

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

May 2011

Thursday, May 5, 2011
Westlake UMC
1460 Redbud Trail

October 2011

Thursday, October 6, 2011
First UMC Pflugerville
500 East Pecan

June 2011

Thursday, June 2, 2011
University UMC
2409 Guadalupe

November 2011

Thursday, November 3, 2011
Riverbend Church
4214 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.

July 2011

Thursday, July 7, 2011
Northwest Hills UMC
7050 Village Center

December 2011

Thursday, December 1, 2011
Parker Lane UMC
2105 Parker Lane

August 2011

Thursday, August 4, 2011
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill Road



Reminder:

Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

September 2011

Thursday, September 1, 2011
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road

Contact:

Board Member for Gathering Support
Myles McKemie
myles.mckemie@ergon.com