



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



August, 2011

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 22, Number 8

Welcome New Butterflies

Girl's Flight #346
June 16-18, 2011
Cathedral Oaks

Boys Flight #353
July 28-30, 2011
First UMC, Austin



GAE4DG Marketing Campaign

The Greater Austin Emmaus Board of Directors has developed a marketing campaign for this summer in an effort to identify potential pilgrims, as well as sponsors, for the upcoming Walks. Various Board members will be attending a number of churches within the GAE4DG area to participate in the worship service when able, and to share information about Emmaus with people who have yet to attend a Walk. We also have sponsor packets and Pilgrim applications to distribute. Our participation has ranged from giving a short witness at the beginning of a service, to giving a 4th-Day Talk, to distributing materials during the "social hours" before and after services. Of course, we can't make it to every church, but if you would like sponsor packets or Pilgrim applications and brochures for your church, please contact any member of the Board, or Diane Merwarth (dianemerwarth@att.net). It is so exciting to share information about Emmaus with others and to talk about God's amazing love and Grace! And this Board wants to ensure that no Walk will EVER need to be cancelled again!

De Colores!

Agape

Agape is a Greek word. One of the translations for agape is **love**. Another translation expands the definition to be the love of God for mankind. No matter how you define it, the agape you received on your Walk was one of the ways the Emmaus Community expressed their love for Christ and Christ's love for you.

All those 'Do-Dahs' you received as a Pilgrim were handcrafted acts of love by your Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Who can forget the hand-made bookmarks, the gum and candy, the silly jewelry, or the slips of paper with a Bible verse on them that were left on your bed in increasing amounts as the weekend wore on? Sometimes the humor of the accompanying note of love was just what you needed to lighten the moment. All of those gifts of agape were meant to help you feel God's love surrounding you.

Every walk needs your agape do-dahs to help make it special for the Pilgrims. Here are some things to remember when making your agape. 65 pieces of agape are needed for each walk - this amount covers the Pilgrims and the Conference Room team plus a few extra in case of breakage/damage. Agape in quantities only for the Pilgrims will be passed out on Sunday afternoon for the Pilgrims to take home with them.

Pilgrims love to see your Reunion Group name or your church name on the agape. This is the start of helping the Pilgrims integrate into the Emmaus Community once they return home. It tells them there are others that they can connect with for support once they return from their walk.

You can sign up for agape for each walk online. Links to the individual walk online signup sheets are provided on the GAE website. You also can sign up using the paper list that is passed around at the Gatherings. The signup list includes food, paper goods, and other agape that is needed for each walk.

Getting your agape to the walk is easy. You can bring it to the Gathering held before the walk and hand it over to the Lay Director, Walk Servant Team Coordinator or to the Board Member for Walk Support. Drop-off sites are listed where you can leave your agape up until the day before the walk begins. Lastly you can bring your agape to the walk site on Thursday afternoon/evening and leave it with the Servant Team.

No matter how you define it, no matter how you express it, every walk needs your agape love!

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2011/2012 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Sandy Brooks
Sandy@gae4dg.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Cheryl Broome
Cheryl@gae4dg.org

4th Day Board Representative

Roxie Greenway
Roxie@gae4dg.org

Assistant Lay Director

Gary Johnson
Gary@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Gathering Support

Myles McKemie
Myles@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Walk Support

Bobby Callison
Bobby@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Member Services

Bob Duplantis
Bob@gae4dg.org

Treasurer

Ann Rioux
Anne@gae4dg.org

Immediate Past Lay Director

Gene McConnell
Gene@gae4dg.org

Chrysalis Representative

Kathy Robbins
krobbins100@yahoo.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



De Colores!

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



The Walk Talk Deadline for September is August 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 5!

We'll be looking for **you!**

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

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.

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

August 27, 2011

November 5, 2011

San Angelo First UMC

Kingsville First UMC

Christians fasten their trust onto the biblical promises of God

If you've ever wondered whether birds sleep at night, rest assured they do. By necessity their sleep is on the light side as they keep an ear alert for danger and often one eye open for predators.

Birds sleep well thanks to a little flexor tendon that automatically tightens in their leg when they land on a tree branch. It's a tiny tendon that runs down the leg and into the toes, which in turn curl around the configuration of the branch.

The beauty is that the bird doesn't even have to think about this tightening to make it happen. It occurs involuntarily. The tendon only relaxes when the bird consciously lets go.

The capacity to sleep with peace of mind is one of the best things going for our little feathered friends. No wonder Martin Luther could speak of God "making sparrows into theologians." It's their carefree way of unconcerned living that caught the eye of Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount.

Spiritually speaking, we have something akin to this miniature tendon found in birds' legs. It is called trust -- trust that God is with us and for us both day and night.

Whether falling asleep at night or rising to a new day, Christians fasten their trust onto the biblical promises of God.

In the Middle Ages, fides was the key word for faith. Believers understood the life of faith mostly as an intellectual assent to certain propositions.

In place of fides, Luther helped popularize the word fiducia, meaning personal trust. We know what it means to have a fiduciary relationship with a bank. We aim to trust the bankers with our money, investing it in their care.

Deep Christians trust their whole life to God. They "bank" on God as the worthy center of everything that matters. They think of trust as a form of freedom, that liberating possibility to leave the worrisome things of life in the embrace of God.

From The Art of Trusting, by Peter W. Marty, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa

De Colores! Gerard Kern

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

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, July 7 at Northwest Hills UMC. In attendance were: Sandy Brooks - Lay Director; Gary Johnson - Assistant Lay Director; Gene McConnell - Past Lay Director; Roxie Greenway - 4th Day Representative; Anne Rioux - Treasurer; Bob Duplantis - Member Services; Bobby Callison - Gathering Support. Also in attendance was Diane Merwarth.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Sandy Brooks. Gary Johnson gave the opening prayer. The Board Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were not available and will therefore be reviewed and approved at the next Board meeting in August.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Anne Rioux. The report was in three sections with the first being the June "GAE4DG Summary" showing a checking account balance of \$5,719.36 on June 30 with a scholarship fund set aside of \$721.00. The second was a "Balance Sheet" and the third was a "Income/Expense Comparison by Category" through June 30. There was a discussion of what should be reported in the monthly Treasurer's report, whether it should have the third section with detailed income and expenses by category. Following the discussion, Bob Duplantis moved to accept the reports as presented and further that future monthly reports not contain the detailed income and expenses by category but instead this information be summarized once per year with this detail. Roxie Greenway seconded and the Board unanimously approved the report.

Gary Johnson led a discussion of the ongoing concern for the GAE4DG to obtain a tax exempt status as a 401(c)(3) exempt organization. At issue is whether to continue to use the Southwest Texas Conference exemption or to separate financial activities and banking as a free standing exempt organization. If GAE4DG was to separate itself from the SWT Conference, it could handle banking locally without sending all checks through the Conference. Gary presented an overview of what it would take to qualify and obtain our own 401(c)(3) exempt organization status. There would be a cost of several hundred dollars in order to apply. The application would be filed with the IRS and after it is granted, we would need to file for State recognition with the Texas Secretary of State's Office. Bob Duplantis had been working on this earlier in the year and said he would follow up with his contact at the Conference level in order to assist us in determining the direction we should take. Roxie added that she would get this issue on the agenda for the SWT Conference.

Roxie Greenway provided information about the 2012 Winter/Spring Women's and Men's Walks. Robbie Cripe will be the Lay Director for the February 2-5 Women's Walk. Board Representative - Sandy Brooks; Spiritual Director-TBD; Servant Team Coordinator - Anne Rioux. For the Men's Walk May 3-6, Bud Broeker will be the Lay Director. Board Representative - Gary Johnson; Servant Team Coordinator - Myles McKemie; Spiritual Director - TBD.

Diane Merwarth provided an update on the Marketing Plan. Previously ten churches had been identified in the Austin area that the Board would interface with to market Emmaus to their memberships. Marketing brochures were printed along with other Emmaus forms and literature, to be taken to each church for the designated "Emmaus Sunday." Two Board members that are not members of that congregation are to attend on the designated days to man a table, to support the local Emmaus coordinators, and to discuss Emmaus with potential pilgrims, team members and sponsors. Diane shared with the Board and provided a schedule of the Board members that will be attending the "Emmaus Sundays" in July and August.

There was a discussion of the upcoming Chrysalis Boy's Flight #353 on July 28, that it was filling up and they need support from the Emmaus community. It is to be held at First UMC in Austin. The girl's flight has 21 butterflies so far.

The upcoming Women's Walk 1629, September 22-25, has nine pilgrims and the Men's Walk 1640, October 20-23, has 15 pilgrims.

New Business: There is to be a team selection later in July for the first of the men's and women's walks in 2012. This will be communicated at the Gathering so that we can have representatives of the Emmaus Community participate in team selection. Roxie will be notifying everyone of the date for the Team Selection meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00. There were 122 in attendance at the gathering.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Johnson

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

August 2011

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

November 2011

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

September 2011

Thursday, September 1, 2011
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road

December 2011

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

October 2011

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



Reminder:

Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

Contact:

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