



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



July, 2012

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 23, Number 7

Article from the Lay Director

As I begin to serve my time as the GAE4DG Lay Director, I write this article thinking of all the servants that have come before me in serving the Austin Emmaus Community. These servants have done a mighty work as disciples in building Christ's kingdom on Earth by their demonstration of love, caring and service. Not only are they leaders in their churches, they have shown obedience to Christ in helping to encourage discipleship among fellow believers.

If you are reading this, you have probably been on a *Walk to Emmaus* and you have served Christ through Emmaus in a variety of ways. Perhaps you have served on the Board of Directors, on Servant or Conference room teams, by praying for the teams and pilgrims, by sponsorship; and perhaps you have provided agape and supplies. For all of you we are indebted, encouraged and strengthened; and we serve by standing on your shoulders.

The *Walk to Emmaus* is but one way that Christ uses to build disciples. But from my experience, the *Walk to Emmaus* routinely transforms lives of pilgrims and turns them on fire for the Lord. That is why I serve Christ through Emmaus.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ gives his Great Commission to the 11 disciples:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This is what Emmaus is about: *BUILDING DISCIPLES*. What a wonderful and important calling. See you on the *Walk*!

Gary Johnson, Lay Director, GAE4DG

Chrysalis News

Now is the Time for Chrysalis!!

The Austin/Crossroads Chrysalis Community is sponsoring two Flights:

July 11-14, 2012: Girl's Flight # 357 at First UMC, Austin, TX
Jackie Condra, Lay Director, James Amerson, Spiritual Director
Wendy Boatwright, Board Rep.; Cost: 90.00



July 26-28, 2012: Boy's Flight # 360 at Cathedral Oaks, Weimer, TX
Bill Holladay, Lay Director, James Amerson, Spiritual Director
Jim Luton, Board Rep.; Cost: 185.00

Registration forms are posted on the SWTX Conference and Greater Austin Emmaus Community websites, or you may contact one of the Lay Directors, Jackie Condra (jcondra@ecisd.org) and Bill Holladay (billh@tisd.net). Scholarships are available!

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2012/2013 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director
Gary Johnson
Gary@gae4dg.org

Spiritual Director
Rev. Cheryl Broome
Cheryl@gae4dg.org

4th Day Board Representative
Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org

Assistant Lay Director
Anne Rioux
Anne@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
Jim@gae4dg.org

Treasurer
Debby Duplantis
Debby@gae4dg.org

Immediate Past Lay Director
Sandy Brooks
Sandy@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
Connie Ellis
drcellis@gmail.com

Food/Gift Agape Coordinator
Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org



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



The Walk Talk Deadline is on the 20th of each month!

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 gathering schedule on the last page!

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



2012 Austin Sponsored Walks

	Women's Walk # 1674 Sept. 20-23	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley	
	LeeLeen Sundbeck, Lay Director	contact: leeleen21@gmail.com	
	Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director	contact: roxieg@austin.rr.com	
	Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.	contact: dianemerwarth@att.net	
	Diane Merwarth, ST Coordinator		
	Men's Walk # 1686 Oct. 25-28	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley	
	Derly Tijerina, Lay Director	contact: derly@pobox.com	
	Charlie Baskin, Spiritual Director	contact: Gene.McConnell@jicompanies.com	
	Gene McConnell, Board Rep.	contact: bob@bodeb.com	
	Bob Duplantis, ST Coordinator		

Agape Signup Online

The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1674 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1674agape

The signup for Men's Walk to Emmaus #1686 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1686agape

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.

Changing Course -- Love Can Soften Calcified Heart

"Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps, if you are not willing to move your feet." (Anonymous).

Jonah probably had many attributes, but an eagerness to listen to the Lord was not among them. He was in love with his own beliefs and opinions. When God first commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh, a city pregnant with evil, and declare that godlessness would only lead to destruction, Jonah went in the opposite direction. He jumped in a boat and sailed away from God. He didn't want the people in Nineveh to be saved.

The second time God ordered Jonah to go to Nineveh, he went. But when the wicked urbanites of that city suddenly started to believe in God, Jonah was miffed. Actually he was furious -- less at them than at God.

God had decided to call off the fire and brimstone, elected instead to rain down mercy. God had changed God's mind about a promised wrath. This was too much for Jonah. The whole idea of divine mercy disgusted him. Never mind that he was the recipient of mercy several times himself. He couldn't stomach God showing more flexibility of heart than he had ever demonstrated himself.

Somewhere along the way we Christians picked up the notion that to change one's mind is a spiritual weakness. Why change a perspective when you have everything figured out? We equate the constancy of God with divine inflexibility. Yet throughout the Old Testament, God appears ready and willing to change God's mind, and there is one reason -- love. Love has a way of breaking the chains of dogged certainty. If God is love, it stands to reason that God has the privilege of changing God's mind, especially when mercy is at stake.

It takes humility to re-examine old assumptions and to be open to new possibilities. On the best days, it will open up whole new worlds of love.

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, April 12, at Lake Travis United Methodist Church. In attendance were: Sandy Brooks-Lay Director; Cheryl Broome-Spiritual Director; Gary Johnson-Assistant Lay Director; Gene McConnell-Immediate Past Lay Director; Roxie Greenway-4th Day Representative; Bob Duplantis-Member Services; Myles McKemie-Gathering Support; Bobby Callison-Walk Support; Anne Rioux-Treasurer; Tom Rioux- Food/Gift Agape Coordinator; and Kathy Robbins-Chrysalis Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 by Sandy Brooks. Cheryl gave the opening prayer.

Gary Johnson provided the minutes to the March Board meeting for review and approval. After review, Bob Duplantis moved the Board accept and Bobby Callison seconded. The minutes were approved by the Board

Anne Rioux next presented the Treasurer's report. The beginning balance on March 1 was \$3,388.60 and the ending balance on March 31 was \$5,246.45. This change primarily reflected deposits of fees for the men's Walk 1659 that is to take place May 3-6, 2012. Gary Johnson moved that we accept the report as presented and Myles McKemie seconded. The report was approved by the Board.

Sandy Brooks next discussed the issue of email and personal information of pilgrims and team members that are shared on Walks. Currently there is a personal information sheet provided on a CD Rom included in the closing packets. We can ask that names and email addresses be used only for Emmaus purposes, but we cannot prevent other use.

There was also a discussion of a Facebook page that was created. Who created it and who is the administrator?

Myles McKemie then presented a report of Gathering Support. Myles provided an update on the upcoming Gatherings:

May: Manor United Methodist Church

June: Hyde Park Christian Church (we will have a Community potluck for the Agape Feast)

July: University UMC

August: Covenant UMC

September: Bethany UMC

October: Bethany UMC

November: Westlake UMC

December: Parker Lane UMC

Bob Duplantis mentioned that David Hall was attempting to help with the calendar on the GAE4DG website. He stated that the calendar on the Yahoo site was working properly.

Bob also discussed the need to obtain wireless mikes for Walks. The cost would be approximately \$299. Roxie moved to approve to approve \$299 plus \$25 for additional length cable. Myles seconded and the motion was approved.

Roxie Greenway discussed the upcoming SWTX Emmaus Board meeting coming up on April 14, and that Tom Rioux would be attending.

Kathy Robbins discussed Chrysalis issues. She said the girls Chrysalis had been moved to First UMCE Austin for July 11-14. The cost will be \$90. There will be a girl's Journey at Twin Oaks, June 2-5 and a Boy's Journey at Twin Oaks, June 10-13.

Cheryl closed with a prayer and we were adjourned at 6:52

There were 122 in attendance at Candlelight.

Submitted by Gary Johnson

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

2012 Gatherings

July 2012

**Thursday, July 12, 2012
University UMC
2409 Guadalupe

October 2012

Thursday, October 4, 2012
Tarrytown UMC
2601 Exposition Blvd.

August 2012

Thursday, August 2, 2012
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road

November 2012

Thursday, November 1, 2012
Westlake UMC
1460 Redbud Trail

September 2012

Thursday, September 6, 2012
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill



Gathering Dates

Please note the following changes on Gathering Dates:

June 14, 2012—moved to 2nd week to avoid conflict with Church Conference

July, 2012—moved to 2nd week to avoid conflict with July 4th holiday

Reminder:

Childcare Services are available at all Gatherings.

Contact:

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