



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



September, 2012

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 23, Number 9

A Word from the Lay Director

This month we remind you of the ongoing opportunity of the **Walk to Emmaus**, with a **Women's Walk** scheduled for **September 20-23** and a **Men's Walk** scheduled for **October 25-28**. Both Walks will be held in beautiful Wimberley at Camp Young Judaea. In the Austin area, thousands of local church members, representing many denominations, have experienced the wonder of this three day journey that leads to a fuller understanding of the love God has for us as expressed through the service and acts of fellow Christians.

Emmaus is international with Walks occurring on a regular basis. Although Emmaus is but one way of experiencing the fullness of God's love for us, many have found that their experience changed their life by revitalizing their witness, and awakened in them a desire to serve God and their church.

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servant hood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus gets its name from Luke 24:13-35, recounting the story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As you can imagine, the disciples were overcome with sadness at the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus *opened the eyes* of the disciples, lighting the fire of God's love in their hearts before ascending into heaven. The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

If you are interested in attending a Walk, contact the Emmaus coordinator or pastor of your church. You can also contact any one of the members of the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors. Their contact information is in this *Walk Talk*.

See you at the Gatherings.
Gary Johnson, Lay Director
Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

Emmaus Walk # 1674

Please support this Walk with your prayers, your agape, and your presence at Candlelight and Closing. Please keep the pilgrims and team members in your prayers, and remember, there are many unseen and unsung community members working on the Servant Team!

Leeleen Sundbeck, Lay Director Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.
Sue Abold Beth Bible Sarah Bowles Teddy Broeker Cheryl Broome Yolanda Cullar
Gina Franklin Ronee Gilbert Pat Hall Bonnie Harvey Paula Hui Vicki Hutchison
Sarah Lancaster Michelle Lang Tonna Marcyes Lynn Magee Jessica Peterson
Deena Raynor Grady Roe Terri Slone Silvia Villareal Carolyn Wietzel

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2012/2013 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Gary Johnson
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Spiritual Director

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4th Day Board Representative

Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org

Assistant Lay Director

Anne Rioux
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Myles@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Walk Support

Bobby Callison
Bobby@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Member Services

Jim Burgess
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Music Coordinators

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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 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!



Reminders for Emmaus Walk 1674

Sponsor Hour: 7:00 pm, Thursday, September 20th

Candelight: 7:30 pm, Saturday, September 22nd

Closing: 3:30 pm, Sunday, September 23rd

[Directions to Camp Young Judaea](http://www.cyjtxas.org/clientuploads/PDF/directions%20to%20CYJ.pdf)

<http://www.cyjtxas.org/clientuploads/PDF/directions%20to%20CYJ.pdf>



Potential Sponsors!

Please give prayerful consideration to who you might sponsor for the upcoming fall walks and get the process moving as quickly as possible. Once again we challenge each Reunion Group to sponsor at least one pilgrim for these walk. This challenge, of course, extends to individuals as well. Let's get busy and get the pilgrim applications in to the SWTX Emmaus Registrar to fill these walks.

Don't forget that the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group has 1/3 scholarships available, download the form at <http://www.austinemmaus.org/reg.php>. Also check with your local church for other scholarship opportunities. Do not let cost stand in the way of a potential pilgrim, talk to your board members on ways to help.

2012 Austin Sponsored Walks

Women's Walk # 1674 Sept. 20-23

LeeLeen Sundbeck, Lay Director

Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director

Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.

Diane Merwarth, ST Coordinator

Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

contact: leeleen21@gmail.com

contact: roxieg@austin.rr.com

contact: dianemerwarth@att.net

Men's Walk # 1686 Oct. 25-28

Derly Tijerina, Lay Director

Charlie Baskin, Spiritual Director

Gene McConnell, Board Rep.

Bob Duplantis, ST Coordinator

Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

contact: derly@pobox.com

contact: Gene.McConnell@jicompanies.com

contact: bob@bodeb.com

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.

Volunteers Needed!

Want to support the Emmaus Community and earn some money at the same time?

We are looking for adults who love children and want to help provide child care for Candlelight. You will be paid \$40 for your service. We provide the place, activities, snacks, and the children.

If interested, please contact Bob Callison at 512-345-4796 or bobbycallison@swbell.net

You Are Invited!

The Emmaus community is invited to attend and celebrate Walk 1674 at the Welcome Back scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2012 in room D208 at Bethany UMC, 10010 Anderson Mill Road. We will start with a "meet and greet" at 6:30pm and then move into our program at 7pm. Please come join us as we welcome the pilgrims into the Austin Emmaus Community. Child care will not be provided.

2013 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk # 1690 George Tolleson, Lay Director	Feb. 7-10, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley Jack Foreman, Board Rep.
Women's Walk # 1707 Susan Curtis, Lay Director	May 2-5, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley Diane Merwarth, Board Rep.
Women's Walk # 1720	Sept. 26-29, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
Men's Walk # 1730	Oct. 24-27, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

Choose Your God

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

In his farewell address, Joshua calls on Israel to choose whether they will continue walking with God or follow the gods of the other nations. The people of Israel respond, "We will serve the Lord."

Joshua's response might seem a bit harsh: "You are not able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God." But Joshua is just reminding them to think carefully about this promise they are making. God is holy, and he demands perfect obedience in thought, word, and deed all the time. God's holiness makes Him jealous as well. He loves us -- and we owe Him our love and devotion in return. Every time we give that love to someone or something else, we stir up His wrath.

In His summary to the first three commandments, Jesus said, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind*" (Matt, 22:37).

It is impossible for us to serve the Lord perfectly. Someone had to do that in our place. That is why Jesus lived His perfect life and suffered God's wrath for all our failings when He sacrificed Himself on the cross for us. Since He served God perfectly, we, too, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can serve the Lord our God.

De Colores! Gerard Kern

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group - Board of Directors Meeting
University United Methodist Church
Thursday, July 12, 2012

The following were in attendance: Gary Johnson-Lay Director, Anne Rioux-Asst. Lay Director, Debby Duplantis-Treasurer, Jim Burgess-Member Support, Tom Rioux-4th Day Board Representative, Sandy Brooks-Immediate Past Lay Director, Bobby Callison-Walk Support, and Myles McKemie-Gathering Support.

The meeting was called to order by Gary Johnson. Anne Rioux offered the opening prayer. The minutes from the June 2012 BOD meeting were read. Tom Rioux moved to accept the minutes subject to minor changes recommended, and Debby Duplantis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

A discussion ensued about possible cooperation between GAE4DG and Hays Praise 4th Day Group to supply walks with walk leadership and/or pilgrims. It was suggested that the two groups combine resources. Sandy Brooks reported that she and Spiritual Director Cheryl Broome plan to speak to the Hays Praise 4DG Board of Directors and Spiritual Director about how we can develop meaningful cooperation. Tom Rioux reported that he plans to approach the Hays Praise Board Representative about the two groups cooperating on walks at the upcoming SWTC meeting of 4DG Board Representatives July 21, 2012.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Sandy Brooks reported that she had not yet contacted the team members of Walk 1644 to resolve the outstanding \$100 team fees owed. It was discussed and agreed that Treasurer Debby Duplantis will contact the members of the conference room team for Walk 1644 to resolve the outstanding fees. Anne Rioux moved that the Treasurer's report be approved, Myles McKemie seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Tom Rioux reported that there is a SWTC Emmaus Board meeting July 21 and that he will attend on behalf of GAE4DG. There is an Upper Room Leadership Development training session scheduled in San Antonio July 28. Members of the GAE4DG Board of Directors who have not attended this training within the last three years are required to do so.

Tom Rioux submitted a draft of updated Lay Director responsibilities. He moved that they be accepted and Gary Johnson seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Tom moved that anyone being considered for a Lay Director assignment must have served both on a Conference Room Team and a Servant Team for GAE4DG- sponsored walks within six years of being chosen to serve as Lay Director. Bobby Callison seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Tom moved that anyone serving on a Conference Room Team may only do so once every two years unless the GAE4DG Board Representative and Team Selection Committees need to assign someone to a walk to fulfill the necessary experience to qualify as a Lay Director. Debby Duplantis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Tom Rioux reported that George Tolleson was unanimously approved as Lay Director for Walk 1690, February 7-10, 2013, and Susan Curtis was unanimously approved as Lay Director for Walk 1707, May 2-5, 2013 by email vote of the GAE4DG Board of Directors.

Other reports:

Myles McKemie confirmed the following:

Roy Fry would be the Fourth Day speaker at the July 12, 2012 Gathering.

Covenant UMC will host the August 2, 2012 Gathering.

Bethany UMC will host the September 6, 2012 Gathering which will include the commissioning of the team for Walk 1674.

Tarrytown UMC will host the October 4, 2012 Gathering which will include the commissioning of the team for Walk 1686.

Westlake UMC will host the November 1, 2012 Gathering.

Parker Lane UMC will host the December 6, 2012 Gathering.

Wesley UMC will host the January 3, 2013 Gathering.

Bobby Callison reported that Ashley Beebe has agreed to provide child care for Candlelight for Walk 1674. She will need to complete a form for SWTC having passed a background check with the Austin District. Bobby advised he would review the Hays Praise agenda for Welcome Backs with the attendees at the Gathering, and would email the agenda to the GAE4DG Board of Directors for comment and input.

Jim Burgess advised he has figured out how to implement a new communication system.

Gary Johnson closed the meeting with a prayer.

There were 63 people in attendance at the July 2012 Gathering.

Ed. 8/2/2012 AR

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

2012 Gatherings

September 2012

Thursday, September 6, 2012
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill
Team #1674 Commissioning

October 2012

Thursday, October 4, 2012
Tarrytown UMC
2601 Exposition Blvd.
Team #1686 Commissioning

November 2012

Thursday, November 1, 2012
Westlake UMC
1460 Redbud Trail

December 2012

Thursday, December 6, 2012
Parker Lane UMC
2105 Parker Lane

Reminder:

Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

Contact:

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

