



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



February, 2013

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 24, Number 2

A word from the Lay Director

Over the last few months I have been very concerned with many things that I have no direct control over: The economy, the politics in Washington, crime, the unemployed; the list seems endless! These issues and concerns are not new, but at this time of year I tend to focus on negatives a little too much.

Everywhere I look, it appears that this world is in decay. The education system is in trouble, too many children are growing up without their basic needs being met, drugs and gangs are a plague on society, and parents are overwhelmed with making ends meet.

Should we pass new laws? Should government take over for us to meet our needs? As believers, what should we do?

Okay, enough of these negative thoughts. We are God's children and He has promised to take care of us, to provide for our needs. We must look at each day for the opportunities it brings for us to serve our God, in whatever way that is presented to us. No, we cannot fix everything that is wrong in this world, but by faith we can live our lives as shining examples of how God's love and caring are shared through those that know and serve Christ. Through our lives, we can share the "GOOD NEWS" of Christ and provide hope for those we meet along our paths. God's Word provides guidance for us follow: "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world" (1 John 5:4).

As I write this article, men's Walk 1690 is about to begin and God is in control! Praise be to God!

See you on the Walk!

Gary Johnson, Lay Director, Greater Austin Emmaus



Emmaus Walk # 1690

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!

Reminders for Emmaus Walk 1690

Sponsor Hour: 7:00 pm, Thursday, February 7th

Candlelight: 7:30 pm, Saturday, February 9th

Closing: 3:30 pm, Sunday, February 10th

[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>



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

Jim Burgess
Jim@gae4dg.org

Treasurer

Debby Duplantis
Debby@gae4dg.org

Immediate Past Lay Director

Sandy Brooks
Sandy@gae4dg.org

Chrysalis Representative

Tim Deschner
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Registration Liaison

Ted Shaw
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Database Coordinator

Tom Rioux
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Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Connie Ellis
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Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org

Music Coordinator

Tom Carstarphen
tomc4041@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 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!**

Potential Sponsors!

Please give prayerful consideration to who you might sponsor for the upcoming 2013 walks! It is never too early to sponsor a pilgrim. So get busy finding your pilgrim candidate, pray pray pray, discuss the walk with them, and get their 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.

Women's Emmaus Walk 1707 (May 2-5) Update:

Our second team meeting is on February 9th at Berkeley UMC. Conference Room and Servant Teams are working to be prepared for the walk. Praise God, we already have 2 confirmed pilgrims! But, of course, we have space for 34 more, so don't delay! We need everyone's help to talk to friends and fellow church members to get the word out to any women who may be interested in going on a Walk. Contact me if you have questions:

Susan Curtis, Lay Director, Walk 1707, [512 280-1313](tel:5122801313)



2013 Austin Sponsored Walks

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|--|---|
| <p>Women's Walk # 1707 May 2-5, 2013</p> <p>Susan Curtis, Lay Director Judy Baskin, Spiritual Director Diane Merwarth, Board Rep. Sherry Wilkison, ST Coordinator</p> | <p>Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley contact: curtis@prismnet.com</p> <p>contact: dianemerwarth@att.net contact: rwilkison@austin.rr.com</p> |
| <p>Men's Walk # 1720 Sept. 26-29, 2013</p> <p>Bob Duplantis, Lay Director Tina Carter, Spiritual Director Jack Foreman, Board Rep. Anne Rioux, ST Coordinator</p> | <p>Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley contact: bob@bodeb.com</p> <p>contact: jforeman@sbcglobal.net contact: Anne@gae4dg.org</p> |
| <p>Women's Walk # 1730 Nov. 7-10, 2013</p> <p>Tonna Marcyes, Lay Director Richard West, Spiritual Director Roxie Greenway, Board Rep. Gina Franklin, ST Coordinator</p> | <p>Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley contact: tmarcyес@austin.rr.com</p> <p>contact: roxieg@austin.rr.com contact: franklingdom@gmail.com</p> |

Agape Signup Online

The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1707 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1707agape

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.

Chrysalis News

Dear brothers and sisters of the GAEC,

If you've never served on a Chrysalis, you don't know what you've been missing! Chrysalis is the Walk to Emmaus for high school youth. It takes its name from the growth process (or chrysalis) that a caterpillar goes through as it becomes a butterfly. This growth symbolizes each youth's transformation through Christ into the person God has called them to be. Chrysalis builds up young leaders in the church.

Historically, we have offered two Chrysalis flights every summer – one for boys and one for girls. During the summer of 2014, we want to start offering four flights every summer. To do this we need more men and women from the Austin area who are willing to serve on teams – including those with a desire to eventually serve as lay directors. This summer of 2013, we will have two flights for which we are selecting teams:

June 26-29 Girls Flight 367 in Victoria
August 1-3 Boys Flight 375 in Victoria



If you are interested in serving with Chrysalis, please contact Tim Deschner at (512) 934-8077 or email me at tbeschner@att.net. Do not think that you must be in your twenties to work with youth! We are looking for men and women of *all ages*. All that's required is a heart for Christ and for young people – God will take care of the rest.

De Colores and Fly with Christ,
Tim Deschner, Lay Director for Austin/Crossroads Next Step Group



Volunteers Needed!

- Want to support the Emmaus Community and earn some money at the same time?
- We are looking for people 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

The Epiphany of our Lord --- Those Three Kings

No gospel story has had more legend and mythology grow up around it than this one. In Epiphany we will sing "We Three Kings," but in the first three words are two problems. Matthew doesn't say there were three of them. The idea may have come from their bearing three gifts. And then, they weren't kings. This is something Luther stressed in his preaching on the Epiphany text. He sometimes compared them to philosophers or professors, and sometimes magicians and conjurers. But not kings. That idea may have come from Psalm 72:10, "May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring him gifts."

It may be best to leave the word untranslated -- they were *magi*. For the first Christians magi were pretty disreputable -- dabblers in superstition and magic, astrologers out following a star. And yet it was they who came from afar to seek the infant Christ. Perhaps they had a genuine hunger for God.

Augustine put it they way: "Our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee." And that's the church's task. That's our mission: to proclaim the good news that this Savior born in Bethlehem is the Lord, he is God among us. It is he and he alone who can satisfy the hunger in the human heart, and fill the emptiness in the human soul. The church has many functions, but first, above everything else, we are here to proclaim that in Jesus Christ, God has come among us, and that only in Jesus Christ can human beings find salvation.

Our world is filled with people looking for the light we have found but not knowing where to find it. They search but find only darkness. Our task is like the same described in Ephesians 3, the traditional Epistle for Epiphany: "To bring to the nations the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church" --you and me-- "the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known." That is our calling.

De Colores! Gerard Kern

**Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group
Board of Directors' Monthly Meeting
First United Methodist Church, Pflugerville
Thursday, January 3, 2013**

The following were in attendance: Gary Johnson-Lay Director; Anne Rioux, Assistant Lay Director; Debby Duplantis-Treasurer; Tom Rioux-4th Day Board Representative; Bobby Callison-Board Member for Walk Support; Myles McKemie, Board Member for Gathering Support, Jim Burgess-Board Member for Member Services; Sandy Brooks, Immediate Past Lay Director; Cheryl Broome, Spiritual Director; and Tim Deschner, Austin Crossroads/Chrysalis/Journeys. The following were also in attendance: Jack Foreman, George Tolleson, Diane Merwarth, Katie Brooks and Chris McKemie.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Gary Johnson who opened with prayer.

The minutes for the December 2012 Board meeting were read. Tom Rioux moved to accept the December 2012 BOD meeting minutes, Debby Duplantis seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

A discussion ensued about the upcoming nominations for Board Member for Gathering Support and for Assistant Lay Director. Myles McKemie said he spends about 4-6 hours per month using email and phone calls to line up locations for Gatherings, and Fourth Day Speakers. He has made a habit of setting these up about six months in advance and has an up-to-date list of the Points of Contact for the next holder of this position. Anne Rioux advised she would ask the community for nominations for the positions and for participation on the nominating committee. She also said she would submit an article about the nominations to the next issue of the *Walk Talk*. Anyone wishing to participate on the subcommittee or nominate someone for the positions should email Anne at winegoddess99@hotmail.com.

Debby Duplantis presented the Treasurer's Report and added that a community member had donated \$250 to the GAE4DG. Tom Rioux moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Gary Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. Myles McKemie moved that we apply the \$250 donation to the scholarship portion of our funds. Anne Rioux seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Tom Rioux reminded us about the Team Selection Meeting to be held on January 10 at Parker Lane UMC for Walk 1720. He reviewed several candidates for Lay Director as possible members of the Conference Room Team for Walk 1720 with an eye to encouraging all team members to be active in a reunion group and regularly attend Gatherings. He will also contact the church Points of Contact for any missing email addresses.

Sandy Brooks reported that the new Point of Contact for Riverbend Church is Bob Allen. He proposed that he would like to manage an online Prayer Chain with those members of the GAE4DG willing to participate. It would involve a subscribe/unsubscribe format that could be coordinated with Tom Rioux who is currently keeping the database updated. It was resolved that Bob should be invited to the next Board meeting to present the idea with input from our webmaster Jim Burgess.

Myles McKemie updated the dates for Gatherings through July 2013:

February 14 (2nd Thursday), Wesley UMC

March 7, First UMC Austin

April 4, Berkeley UMC (Walk 1707 Team Commissioning)

May 9 (2nd Thursday), Manor UMC

June 13 (2nd Thursday), Riverbend

July 11 (2nd Thursday), University UMC (tentative)

Bobby Callison advised he is waiting for a response from Ashley Beebe about her availability for child care for the Walk 1690 Candlelight (Lay Director George Tolleson). The Welcome Back for this walk will be held at Pflugerville UMC with a meet and greet at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7 PM in the sanctuary. The Welcome Back for Walk 1707 (Lay Director Susan Curtis) will be held at Berkeley UMC, 2407 Berkeley Ave, Austin, at 6:30 PM on May 7. Additionally, the Welcome Back for Men's Walk 1720 will be at Lake Travis UMC on Tuesday, October 1; the Welcome Back for Women's Walk 1730 will be at Covenant UMC on Tuesday, November 12. ALL members of the community are invited to attend Welcome Back nights to encourage new members to stay active in Emmaus.

Bobby Callison also reported that he has found kosher candles at the Far West HEB for Candlelight. They burn for 3 hours and can be reused for at least one more Candlelight. Jack Foreman is following up on the Cokesbury website for the book table and Day Four books for Walk 1690. George Tolleson added that as of January 21 he wanted any new pilgrim applications for Walk 1690 sent to him. It was suggested that a blast be sent via Yahoo and Facebook to encourage signing up pilgrims. Jack Foreman reported he has created an MP3 of the Walk movie to be used as backup for any technical problems in showing the movie at the Walk.

Jim Burgess stated he will develop a Points of Contact list for the website.

Cheryl Broome reported that the Spiritual Directors have been selected for the remaining 2013 Walks. She is still working on candidates for the next GAE4DG Spiritual Director.

Tim Deschner reported that there is a need for Spiritual Directors for two Flights. He advised they must have been on a Chrysalis weekend to qualify.

Gary Johnson advised he will provide a status report on the 501C3 filing at next month's meeting.

Attendance at the Gathering was 109.

Ed. 2/1/2013 AR

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

2013 Gatherings

February 2013

Thursday, February 14, 2013
Wesley UMC
1164 San Bernard

March 2013

Thursday, March 7, 2013
First UMC Austin
1201 Lavaca Street

April 2013

Thursday, April 4, 2013
Berkeley UMC
2407 Berkeley Ave.
Team #1707 Commissioning

May 2013

Thursday, May 9, 2013
Manor UMC
510 North Burnet, Manor

June 2013

Thursday, June 13, 2013
Riverbend
4214 Capital of Texas Hwy.

Contact:

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

Reminder:

Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

