



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



October 2014

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 25, Number 10

Silent Servant

I just want to say thank you for all of your emails and personal conversation you have had with me since we last gathered. Your input has been enlightening. Someone said to me, “What were we doing when we had waiting list for Walks, and try to recreate it?” I think two items were the reasons for the success then.

The first reason was the support of our pastors. Pastors talked about Emmaus from the pulpits. They thought of Emmaus as a way to build good Christian leaders for their churches. They suggested people to ask. They even asked people to go on Walks. We need you to ask your pastors to get involved. They can work Emmaus into any subject they are teaching. I would like you to ask your pastor to work it in. If they have not been on a Walk, ask them to go. Remember to do it lovingly.

The second reason Emmaus was successful was that we asked people to attend. Someone wrote in an email, “If the purpose of Walks becomes more about fulfilling the desires of team members than building disciples, the future of Emmaus is bleak.” I agree with that statement. In one of the talks on my pilgrim Walk it was stated that we are beggars telling other beggars where to find bread. To paraphrase a write me down in another talk – make a friend, be a friend, invite a friend on a Walk.

We used to talk about Emmaus to everyone and to some it was the answer to all the world’s problems. If everyone on the Yahoo email list would ask two people for every Walk, that would mean we ask a 1,000 people for every Walk. If we got a 10% response that would be 100 people. If we got a 5% response that would be 50 people. If we got a 2½% response that would be 25, and a Walk just made.

We all have to do our part and speak up. I am not asking you to do anything that I am not doing in my church. We asked and we got 6 women for the next Walk and we are going to do the same for the next men’s Walk. Don’t be a silent servant. Ask someone.

Thanks for your help and input on this subject.

Melvin Chambers
Lay Director, GAE4DG



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

Board of Directors and Volunteers

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Kellye Noret

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Financial Statement *as of 8/31/14*

Bank Balance

\$1,088.21

(unencumbered funds)

Scholarship Fund

\$2,221.82

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

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**The *WalkTalk* deadline is
the 20th of each month.**

Please send your articles, information, community
opportunities, 4th Day experiences/reflections to:

Kellye@austinemmaus.org

**92 attended the September Gathering at
Covenant UMC, with Amy Wendland
giving an amazing 4th Day talk!**

Check out the Gathering schedule on the last page!
They are normally the first Thursday of the month
unless otherwise noted. Childcare available.

2014 — 2015 Austin Sponsored Emmaus Walks

Women's Walk #1775 November 13 — 16, 2014 Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

Ronee Gilbert, Lay Director
Sue Abold, Spiritual Director
Lynn Magee, Board Rep.
ST Coordinator TBD

contact: Ronee@austinemmaus.org

contact: Lynn@austinemmaus.org

Welcome Back, Nov. 18, 2014, 6:30, Hill Country Bible Church, 11880 Old 2243 West, Leander, 512-259-1900
Walk #1775 Agape Signup <http://www.mysignup.com/walk1775agape>

Men's Walk #1778 February 19 — 22, 2015 Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

David Graham, Lay Director
Jim Austin, Spiritual Director
Mel Chambers, Board Rep.
ST Coordinator TBD

contact: David@austinemmaus.org

contact: Mel@austinemmaus.org

Welcome Back, Feb. 24, 2015, 6:30, Westlake UMC, 1460 Redbud Trail, Austin, 512-327-1335
Walk #1778 Agape Signup <http://www.mysignup.com/walk1778agape>

Women's Walk #1789	April 23 — 26, 2015	LD, Debby Krueger; SD, Tina Carter
Men's Walk #1803	Sept. 10 — 13, 2015	LD, TBA
Women's Walk #1819	Nov. 12 — 15, 2015	LD, TBA

All Walks are at Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley



If you would like to be considered for the Conference Room Team for any Walk, please submit a Team Application. You can download one by going to this link below.

http://www.austinemmaus.org/team_app.php

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group
Board of Directors Meeting
Covenant UMC, Austin
Thursday, September 4, 2014

The regular meeting of the GAE4DG Board was held on September 7th at Covenant UMC commencing at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mel Chambers and the opening prayer was given by Cheryl Broome. Present at the meeting were: Mel Chambers, Lay Director; Chris McKemie, Assistant Lay Director; Tom Rioux, SWTC Board Representative; Debby Duplantis, Treasurer; Carl Fisher, Board Member for Walk Support; Rev. Cheryl Broome, Spiritual Director; LeeLeen Sundbeck, Board Member for Gathering Support; Jim Burgess, Board Member for Member Services; Kellye Noret, *WalkTalk* Editor; David Graham, Lay Director for Men's Walk #1778; Ronee Gilbert, Lay Director for Women's Walk #1775; Myles McKemie was also present for the Board meeting.

Minutes: The Board approved the August minutes by email.

Treasurer's Report: Debby Duplantis presented the treasurer's report. Scholarships have been given for the upcoming Walks. Tom Rioux made motion to accept and Chris McKemie seconded and the treasurer's report was accepted.

SWTC Board Representative's Report: Tom Rioux presented a chart demonstrating the decline of pilgrims for walks. A discussion ensued as to changing to one Men's Walk and one Women's Walk a year. Rev. Cheryl Broome suggested this be presented to the community for their feedback. Mel Chambers will be presenting this to the community at this Gathering. A decision was tabled until feedback is gathered.

Gathering Support: LeeLeen reports Gatherings are scheduled through April with only needing March to be scheduled.

Member Support: Jim Burgess did not have anything new to report.

Walk Support: Carl Fisher reported Agape Lists and Prayer Vigils will be presented to the community.

Spiritual Director: Rev. Cheryl Broome reported that Rev. Tina Carter is the Spiritual Director for Women's Walk #1789.

Walk #1775 Report: Ronee Gilbert reported all is going well, but the Walk will need a new STC. Due to illness in her family, Deena Raynor has resigned.

Walk #1778 Report: David Graham reported all is going well and 7 pilgrims are registered and at least 7 more are interested in the February Walk.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by Mel Chambers. Jim Burgess gave the closing prayer.

Minutes submitted by Chris McKemie, Assistant Lay Director



God's Highway

On long trips there comes a point when we just want to get there. You've heard the question, "*Are we there yet?*" along life's journey. When will my dreams be realized? When will I reach my career goal?

Or how about these: What is God's plan for my life? How will I handle aging and health issues? When will I feel at peace?

When life doesn't go the way we wish, discouragement can arise. Major obstacles can cause us to lose hope. Detours can spark rebellion and sinful behavior. Life's traffic jams can tempt us to turn around and give up. But the Bible helps us to face our journey with confidence that comes by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Peter advises us to travel with reverent fear (1 Peter 1:17-19). That means keeping alert for hazards and distractions. We listen to God's guidance. In Him, we can resist temptations.

Jesus made the ultimate journey. He made a highway of grace back to the Father. Jesus' death and resurrection paved the way home while we were lost in sin. When you feel isolated on your journey, He strengthens you with His Word and sacraments. When you grow weary, God reminds you what awaits you in heaven: abundant, joyful life with Christ, your home forever!

De Colores!
Gerard Kern



Upcoming Walk!

Women's Walk to Emmaus #1775
November 13-16, 2014
Camp Young Judaea

Lay Director, Ronee Gilbert
Spiritual Director, Sue Abold
Board Rep., Lynn Magee

Please be in prayer for this team and the prospective pilgrims, and also about how you can help with agape needs.

Agape Signup

<http://www.mysignup.com/walk1775agape>

Walk Reunions!

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group is sponsoring reunions for the following Walks at the October 2nd Gathering at Hill Country Bible Church:

Women's Walk #182A, 1/3/91, Mt. Wesley
(LD Jan Kennebeck)

Women's Walk #721, 3/18/99, CYJ
(LD Peggy Maxwell)

Women's Walk #1451 9/11/08, Highland Lakes
(LD Belinda Smith)

If you were a pilgrim or team member on one of these Walks, we hope to see you on October 2nd!

A Letter from our GAE4DG Board of Directors

Dear members of the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group (GAE4DG),

Your Board of Directors (BOD) is considering a proposal to hold only 1 Men's Walk per year beginning in February of 2015. We have been working hard over the last few years to reignite the flame for sponsorships, but we must also consider our fiscal responsibilities to you and use our funds to assist pilgrims to attend Walks rather than pay cancellation fees.

The GAE4DG has had 3 cancelled Men's Walks in the last 5 years due to shortage of pilgrims (#1513 on 9/10/2009, #1607 on 3/24/2011, and #1758 on 8/21/2014). When a Walk cancels 2 weeks prior to the Walk start date, it costs the GAE4DG \$1,300.00, and so we have spent \$3,900.00 that could have been used for scholarships.

We request your comments and concerns before we make this decision. Please go to <http://www.austinemmaus.org/bod.php> for a list of individual BOD members and their e-mail addresses OR send your thoughts to the entire BOD at bod@austinemmaus.org. Your comments will be shared among the BOD members but will not be shared with anyone else, so feel free to be candid with us.

To assist you with forming your thoughts, see the chart and table on the next page. Walk attendance has been declining; average attendance since 7/6/2000 at Men's Walks (26.76) has been lower than Women's Walks (30.29) and Men's Walks have been declining faster than Women's Walks (-1.15 pilgrims/year versus -0.89 pilgrims/year).

In the table below the chart, note that in the time period 3/3/2009 (the Monday after Walk #1485) through 8/21/2014 (the start of Walk #1758) (5.495 years), there were 206 pilgrims that went on Men's Walks. This is an average of 37.5 pilgrims per year. With the average decline, that would put us at about 36 by the date for Men's Walk #1803 in February of 2015.

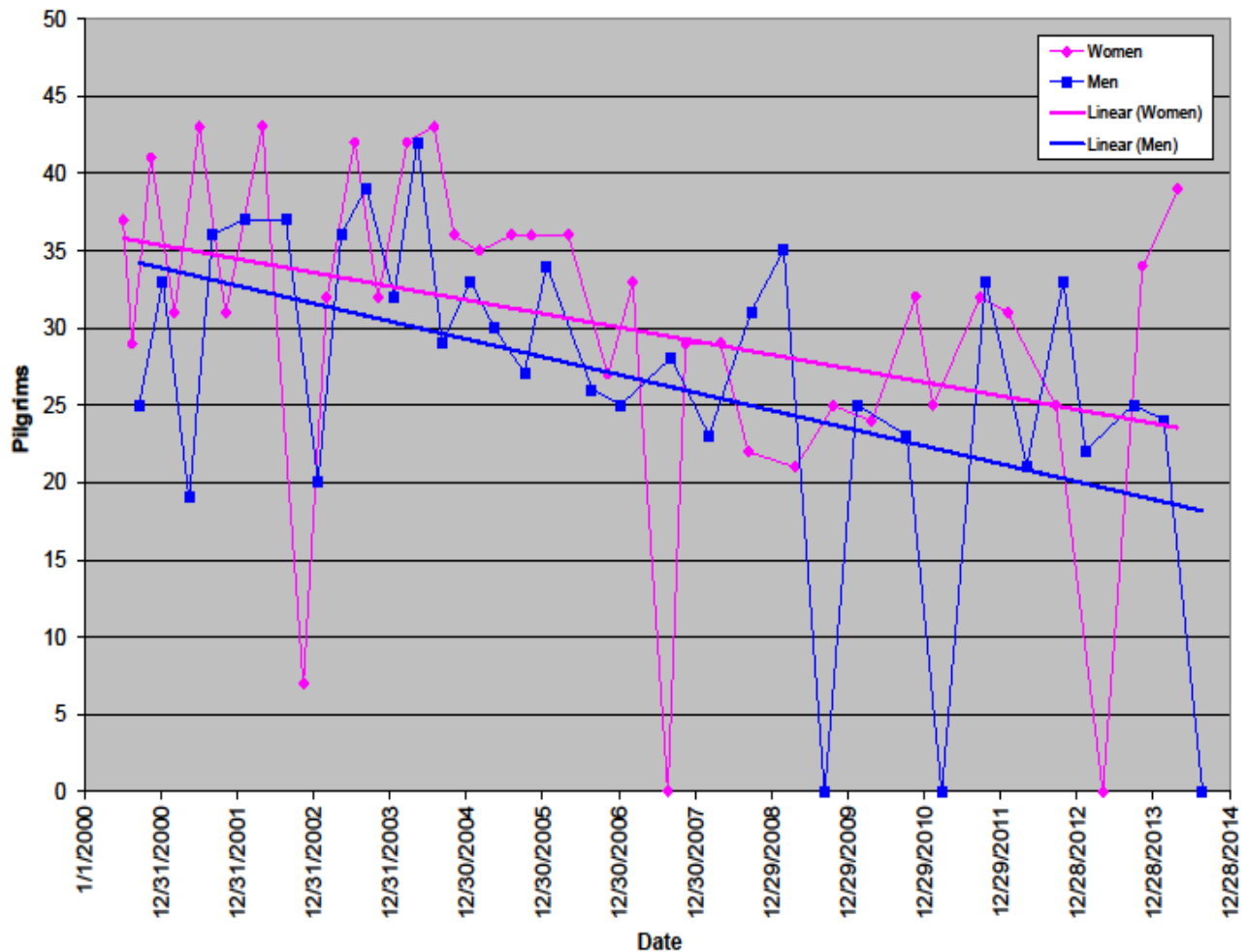
A full walk has 36 pilgrims. If the GAE4DG had held one Men's Walk per year for the last 5.495 years, we would have accommodated 198 of the 206 Pilgrims and perhaps created a sense of urgency to sign up pilgrims EARLY because we would have some men on waiting lists.

Please pray for guidance and let the BOD know your comments and concerns by September 30, 2014.

Tom Rioux
4th Day Board Representative



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Pilgrims since Walk #838 on 7/6/2000



Walk #	Walk Date	M Pil
E1485	2/26/2009	35
E1513	9/10/2009	0
E1541	2/11/2010	25
E1580	10/7/2010	23
E1607	3/24/2011	0
E1640	10/20/2011	33
E1659	5/3/2012	21
E1686	10/25/2012	33
E1690	2/7/2013	22
E1720	9/26/2013	25
E1740	2/17/2014	24
E1758	8/21/2014	0
5.495		206
		37.5



Questions?

Please contact Tom Rioux

Tom.austinemmaus.org

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

2014/2015 Gatherings

October 2, 2014

Thursday, October 2, 2014
Hill Country Bible Church
11880 Old 2243 West, Leander, 78641
4th Day Speaker Johan Carl
Women's Walk #1775 team commissioning
Reunion for Walks #182A, #721, #1451

November 6, 2014

Thursday, November 6, 2014
Wesley UMC
1164 Bernard Street, Austin, 78702
4th Day Speaker Diana Everett
Reunion for Walks #184, #738, #1435, #1456

December 4, 2014

Thursday, December 4, 2014
Oak Hill UMC
7815 Hwy 290 West, Austin, 78736
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #193, #750, #1485

January 8, 2015

Thursday, January 8, 2015
First UMC Cedar Park
600 West Park St., Cedar Park, 78613
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #209, #758, #1497

February 5, 2015

Thursday, February 5, 2015
Westlake UMC
1460 Redbud Trail, Austin, 78746
4th Day Speaker TBA
Men's Walk #1778 team commissioning
Reunion for Walks #218, #786, #1530

March 5, 2015

Thursday, March 5, 2015
Location TBA
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #226, #792, #1541

April 2, 2015

Thursday, April 2, 2015
First UMC Pflugerville
500 East Pecan St., Pflugerville, 78660
4th Day Speaker TBA
Women's Walk #1789 team commissioning
Reunion for Walks #237, #814, #1555

Childcare available at all Gatherings!

Contact:

LeeLeen Sundbeck
LeeLeen@austinemmaus.org