



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



June 2018

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 29, Number 6

Auld Lang Syne

Dear Community,

This past year serving as your Lay Director has flown by but I couldn't have done it without the support and prayers of all of you, so I want to give a big THANK YOU to the community, and especially to our fantastic Board of Directors, whose patience with me, and their willingness to serve our Lord has been inspirational for me.

For myself, I have never been involved with serving on a Board of any type and certainly never served as the Chairman before, but I put my trust in God and stepped out in Faith to serve Him, knowing that with His guidance it would work out. Even though I will be stepping down as your Lay Director, I will still be serving as the Immediate Past Lay Director, and I leave my position knowing that our incoming Lay Director, Rob Turk, will skillfully and diligently guide our community forward and continue to find ways to grow our Emmaus community.

Rob will be serving with the help of our other new Board Members: Kristin Hampsten as Assistant Lay Director, Tisha Christopher as Member Support, and Steven Scott as Gathering Support.

This past year we held two great Walks, the BEST WALKS EVER!!! – Women's Walk #142 with Kristin Hampsten as Lay Director, and Men's Walk #144 with Coe Groce as Lay Director. And we are now moving forward with our next two Walks; Women's Walk #143 on November 15-18, 2018 with Chris McKemie serving as the Lay Director, and our next Men's Walk #145 to be held in the Spring of 2019 with Arnie Waden serving as Lay Director. We need to be in prayer for God's guidance in leading pilgrims to these Walks, and if you know of any potential pilgrims, please encourage them to participate. You can offer to Sponsor them or have your Group Reunion offer to sponsor them so all of you may share in bringing a new pilgrim to our community.

As we have announced at our recent Gatherings, we will not have a Gathering in June but will next meet on July 14th at Cedar Creek UMC. As I have been reporting over the last several *WalkTalk* articles, the Board has decided that trying to continue holding our Gatherings on Thursday nights has become too difficult for our members. We have seen a steady fall off in attendance with the major complaint being the traffic in Austin. So, we will hold our Gatherings every other month on the first Saturday of the month, on the odd numbered months – July, September, November, January, March, and May. The Gatherings will begin at 5:30 with music and service to follow. We will also be offering training – How to be a Sponsor, Serving on a Team, and Board Positions. These additional training sessions will begin at 4:00, and they will be announced prior to the Gatherings through the *WalkTalk* and our Yahoo e-mail. By having our Gatherings on Saturdays you will be able to put it on your calendar, prepare your favorite recipe, and have the time to travel to our Gathering location.

For the sendoff: Go out into the world and use your walk, your experience, and your faith to find ways to get involved to make a difference in our world. Remember, Christ is Counting on You!

De Colores!
LeeLeen Sundbeck
Immediate Past Lay Director



Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director
Rob Turk

LayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr.

SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Lay Director

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Board Member for Member Services

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WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

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**Financial
Statement**
as of 5/18/18

Bank Balance
\$21,514.13

Scholarships are available for participation on a Walk by request. Forms can be found on the GAEC website, below.

Visit the Greater Austin
Emmaus Community
Website at

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Emmaus Sunday!
Don't forget!

The first Sunday of each month is Emmaus Sunday. Wear your cross and lanyard to worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring awareness to the Walk to Emmaus!



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

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

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

**The May 5th Gathering and Potluck Dinner at
Northwest Hills UMC had 92 in attendance,
and Cindy Martin gave an inspiring 4th Day Talk!**

Check out the Gathering schedule on the last page so you don't miss the next one! Childcare available.

2018 Austin Community Sponsored Emmaus Walks

Women's Walk #143

Chris McKemie, Lay Director
Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director
Gina Franklin, Board Rep.
Myles McKemie, ST Coord.

November 15 — 18, 2018

CYJ, Wimberley

Contact: Chris@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Gina@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Myles@austinemmaus.org

Agape sign-up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4ea9a92fa0ff2-walk>

Prayer Vigil sign-up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fabae29a0ff2-prayer>



Database Help Needed!

We are looking for people to help rebuild our database and to add to our social media footprint. If you have skills in these areas, we would like to hear your input. We need your help to make this project a success. If interested, please send an email to

upperroomsupport@austinemmaus.org

if you would like to help. The first meeting date, time, and place will be emailed back to you and also printed in the *WalkTalk*.

De Colores!

Mel Chambers

Upper Room Support



**Next Gathering
Saturday, July 14
Cedar Creek UMC
5630 FM 535,
Cedar Creek, 78612**

**The Joys of Sponsoring a Pilgrim Training Event at 4:00
Potluck Dinner at 5:30
Music and Worship at 6:30**

Women's Walk #143 November 15-18, 2018

Now that Men's Walk #144 is over, it's time to begin planning ahead for Women's Walk #143, Nov. 15-18. The team has already been preparing and having team meetings. Now is the time for US to be in preparation. Here are some ways we can do this:

- ⇒ Pray for the team.
- ⇒ Pray for prospective pilgrims, especially for those who you think might be ready to further their spiritual journey by attending a Walk to Emmaus.
- ⇒ Offer to be a sponsor.
- ⇒ Begin thinking about agape you or your reunion group can provide. Remember, no individual names can go on the agape, only the name of the reunion group and/or the church.
- ⇒ Bring awareness of this Walk to your church. If your church has an Emmaus yahoo group, or a list of folks who have been on a Walk, encourage them also to be in prayer, and for who they might want to approach and offer to be their sponsor.
- ⇒ Ask your pastor to say a brief word from the pulpit, and refer them to someone who can give them more information about it.
- ⇒ Have available between services a table or an area with Walk to Emmaus information, and someone there to explain it and answer questions.

These are just a few of the things we can do to promote this Walk!

Very Important Note From Your Editor

This



Do you have 4th Day experiences you would like to share? Perhaps a reflection on your spiritual journey, or sharing your answers to the two questions asked at Closing: What has this weekend meant to you? What are you going to do with it? Send your reflections to:

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

We will all be blessed by your sharing!



Clergy Corner

Community clergy, would you like to write a paragraph, or two or three, to share with the Greater Austin Emmaus Community? It can be as long or as short as you would like, and on any topic of your choice. Just send your musings to:

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

We will all be blessed by your words of wisdom!



The *WalkTalk* Needs YOU!

The *WalkTalk* needs your help to keep it informative, interesting, and enjoyable to read. Please send your . . .

- ⇒ Emmaus information
- ⇒ Chrysalis information
- ⇒ Kairos information
- ⇒ any upcoming events
- ⇒ articles
- ⇒ personal reflections
- ⇒ 4th Day experiences
- ⇒ GAEC service opportunities/needs
- ⇒ Walk info
- ⇒ Team info
- ⇒ Gathering info



. . . you get the idea! Anything you think the community needs to know, would be helpful to know, or would enjoy reading.

Send your news to WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org



of the May Emmaus Gathering

Episode One: Bought 40 white tablecloths because colorful cloths were not available at Dollar Tree. Someone found colorful tablecloths so attempted to return the 40 white ones. Returns were not allowed – only exchanges. Do you know how long it took to select 40 greeting cards?

Episode Two: Five well-meaning adults attempted to lock the six sanctuary doors after the worship service. They spent the next hour (1) trying to find the correct Allen wrench; (2) figuring out the location of the appropriate slot to put the wrench; and (3) visiting with two very nice police officers who responded to the church alarm that was triggered because the doors were open too long.

It WAS a great first Saturday Gathering, including some laughs along the way!

De Colores!
Patti Bizzell
Treasurer



Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes May 3, 2018, Northwest Hills UMC

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m., by ALD Rob Turk, who opened with prayer and presided over the meeting. The following directors were present: Rob Turk, Assistant Lay Director; Jeanne Randall, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Rep.; Kristin Hampsten, Member Services Coord.; Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coord.; Harold Sundbeck, Walk Support Coord. and Immediate Past Lay Director; Chris McKemie, Lay Director, Walk #143 (*non-voting*); Brenda Hightower, Lay Director, Walk #146 (*non-voting*). **QUORUM:** It was determined that 7 Directors were present, which did constitute a quorum. Our guests were Myles McKemie and Brenda Hightower, LD for Women's Walk #146.

MINUTES: The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on April 4, 2018. The minutes were approved by email and the emails are filed with the Minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Patti made a motion that the approvals for Pilgrim Scholarships that had been requested, approved by email, but not formally voted on, be approved. The motion was seconded by Rob and the motion passed.

Patti made a motion that the line item for Scholarships be transferred from General Funds to Scholarships. Steven Scott seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Patti printed out the Financial Report by Walk to reflect the deposits paid in 2017 to CYJ, and Credit Card fees of \$43. She reported that approximately \$400 of in-kind donations are not included on the financial statements. Patti reported that the Aplos Accounting Software will be increasing from \$270 to \$300 next year.

UPPER ROOM REPORT – There is the possibility of changes to the 3-day schedule from Upper Room. Mel will keep us informed. Walk #144 Closeout report is complete.

GATHERING SUPPORT – Dates for the upcoming Gatherings have been confirmed. Steven has created a flyer for the Gatherings. He is continuing to work on getting Reunion Group and P.O.C. information updated. He is hoping that with the new schedule we will start attracting 200-250 people at each Gathering. The proposed topic for “training” at the July meeting is Sponsorship. It was suggested to contact Anne Rioux to present the training. The tentative plan for the September Gathering is to have an Agape Making Party.

WALK SUPPORT – The trailer went to Jeanne after the Walk for inventory and organizing. She has a preliminary sign-up sheet printed for tonight's Gathering, but will continue to tweak it as she finishes the inventory. The online sign-ups will “go hot” after she inputs the information from tonight. Her goal is to have only what we need for a Walk on the trailer...currently there are enough glue sticks, construction paper, and other perishable supplies for at least the next 5-6 Walks. She reported that it is a “work in progress” that will probably take at least one more Walk to pare down the supplies. Jeanne would like to add “green agape” to the sign-up so that people can donate cash towards the Walk. This would need to be researched to find a way to make a donation that can be done online (Paypal, Google Pay, etc).

MEMBER SUPPORT – Kristen is still researching the best method for communicating with the GAEC community. She is looking for a volunteer that can take the current *WalkTalk* and convert it from Publisher to HTML so that it can be sent out in a less complicated way.

ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR REPORT – We are still searching for a new Music Coordinator for the Community.

OLD BUSINESS –

A committee will be formed to establish a data management process (DMP) that meets the needs of the GAEC that preserves the confidentiality and privacy of members, pilgrims, sponsors, vendors, etc.

A policies and procedures manual needs to be created so that when new people join the Board they are aware of the duties, timelines of commitments, etc.

A new date and time for Board meetings (between the Gatherings) needs to be established.

The possible move from CYJ to Twin Lakes was discussed. It was determined that we would have Walk #143 at CYJ to honor the contract and give us time to do the necessary research and contract negotiations with Twin Lakes YMCA. There are too many issues that have to be discussed and worked through before we can consider making the change of location. Patti moved that Mel create a cost analysis spreadsheet so we make a more accurate comparison of the two facilities. She also moved that the buildings at Twin Lakes be studied to ensure adequate needs for a Walk are met. Rob seconded the motions and they passed.

WALK #143 REPORT – Chris reported that everything is going smoothly towards Walk #143. Her team is in place. The first team meeting is June 2nd and the Board has been invited to attend the Worship service, sign the Covenant, and be a visible presence to the team. She requested that the First Aid Kit be brought to the Team Meeting (the Board Rep. is responsible for updating supplies).

WALK #144 REPORT – The financial Closeout report has been completed and turned in.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:40 p.m., a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Jeanne Randall.



The Joys of Sponsoring a Pilgrim

Do you remember the wonderful feeling you had on your Emmaus weekend? How beautiful it felt to have truly spent that precious time experiencing God's love like **never** before? Would you like to share that experience with others? That is what sponsorship is all about!!

We will have the Joys of Sponsoring a Pilgrim training event at our next Gathering on July 14th at 4pm. The Gathering is at Cedar Creek UMC located at 5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, Texas, 78612, 512-303-1393. We will have and will discuss the sponsoring forms to fill out, explain the sponsor duties, have stories from past sponsors, and answer questions that everyone may have. It should be a fun time for all. To give you a taste of what we will hear, I asked my wife, Paula Scott, to discuss her recent sponsoring of a pilgrim on Men's Walk #144. From Paula:

Being new to the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC), coming from Houston and the Houston West Emmaus Community, I recently had the opportunity to sponsor a pilgrim here in Austin. My pilgrim was a member of our Sunday School class. Steven and I talked to him last year about attending the Emmaus Men's Walk. We shared with him things that we had experienced on Walks over the years that we have been involved in. We discussed how we and others had felt God's love and how we had all changed. We discussed that the main purpose was to build up leaders in the individual churches of the Emmaus community. We were cautious not to be overly excited or too exuberant, making it out to be more than it might be for him. We told him everyone gets something out of it based on where they are in their walk with the Lord. He prayed about going on the Emmaus weekend but the time was a conflict with his schedule. He told us to let him know in 2018 so he could schedule the Emmaus Walk. We told him when the weekend was this year and he agreed to go on Men's Walk #144.

I picked him up on Thursday afternoon for the drive to Camp Young Judaea (CYJ). We had a very enjoyable ride, using the opportunity to get to know each other better by sharing our life stories and experiences. He was very excited about the weekend. I dropped him off at CYJ in the loving hands of the team, his brothers in Christ. I attended the Sponsors Hour where his candle was lit for the first time, and I prayed over his lanyard.

I returned for Candlelight, anxiously hoping that I could "read" his face to see what kind of experience he was having. As he passed by me in the procession, I saw the smile, with tears in his eyes. His life had been touched!

Closing, as always, was a true blessing. The pilgrims shared how their lives had been touched by the time they spent with God and their brothers in Christ. Many said their lives have been changed. My pilgrim had the same response. Praise the Lord! When I finally got to be with him, he confessed that he had come to the Emmaus weekend with expectations, "knowing what it was going to be about." But, he said, "my expectations were blown out of the water, WOW!!!" God truly showed up, as he always does!!

Sponsoring a pilgrim is a blessing and a privilege. Pray about it and ask God to lead you to those you can share this beautiful experience with.

De Colores!
Paula Scott



Women's Walk #143 Needs Pilgrims!

Women's Walk #143 is November 15-18, 2018, and is quickly approaching. Please consider and pray about sponsoring pilgrims for that Emmaus Walk and please attend our Joys of Sponsoring a Pilgrim event at our July 14th Gathering at Cedar Creek UMC!

Steven Scott
Board Member for Gathering Support





Greater Austin Emmaus Community

GAEC GATHERING

Saturday July 14, 2018

Cedar Creek UMC

5630 FM 535

Cedar Creek, TX 78612

4:00 – The Joys of Sponsoring a Pilgrim Training Event

5:30 – Pot Luck Dinner

6:30 – Music and Worship

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

4TH Day Please Bring:

Last Name: A – G: Desserts

H – M: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

N – Z: Main Dishes

Child care is available for ages 5 and under with
reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, July 11th.

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567

ssarch@verizon.net

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Potluck dinner at 5:30, music and worship at 6:30

July 14, 2018

Saturday, July 14, 2018
Cedar Creek UMC
5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612
The Joys of Sponsoring a Pilgrim
Training Event at 4:00pm
Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm
Music and Worship at 6:30pm
4th Day Speaker TBD

September 8, 2018

Saturday, September 8, 2018
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road, Austin, 78727
Agape Making Party at 4:00pm
Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm
Music and Worship at 6:30pm
4th Day Speaker TBD

November 3, 2018

Saturday, November 3, 2018
Lake Travis UMC
1502 North RM 620, Austin, 78734
Serving on a Team and
Board Positions Training at 4:00pm
Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm
Music and Worship at 6:30pm
4th Day Speaker TBD

**Don't forget to bring a dish or some
snacks to share for the potluck!**

Yum!



POTLUCK DINNER



Emmaus Gatherings