



## The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



July 2018

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 29, Number 7

### De Colores!

This is my first article published in the Greater Austin Emmaus Community *WalkTalk* as your Lay Director for 2018-2019. My journey to this position began in the summer of 2006 when I accepted the call to participate in Walk to Emmaus #1316, which was one of the best weekends of my life. Many of you have been on walks where you've heard my story that the gentleman I shared a room with that weekend was someone I had worked with a decade previously, and we had had a falling out. I saw his name on the door and thought, "I cannot do this", but my sponsor, Beth Bible, saw it and said, "It's a God thing. Just go with it", so go with it I did. You see, I had been through a rough patch in my life in the years leading up to my Walk to Emmaus, including experiencing the trauma of a divorce, and having returned to the church as an adult after a decade or more of trying to do things "my way". God used the simple act of reconciling with a former friend to indicate all of what He had in store for me as I accepted and embraced a life of grace, rather than a life "of the world".

So I listened to the talks, and I sang the songs, and I laughed with 50 new best friends, and cried with them. The experience of walking into the old chapel space at Highland Lakes during the Candlelight service is one that I cannot ever forget... the candlelit faces of friends and kind people who were there to support their friends and loved ones looked to me like heaven itself. The whole experience was profound, satisfying, authentic, fun, and life changing. Even now, when I get the chance to share with someone what the Walk to Emmaus experience was like for me, it is difficult to explain in words. The fact that a bunch of us from all of Austin who might never be friends can come together and over a 72 hour period form a bond that is deeper than most friendships is amazing to me. I wish that everyone could have that experience, especially anyone recovering from a loss such as death or divorce, who needs God's grace and love and mercy to take over in their heart so that they can lay down the burden of grief, or shame, or embarrassment, or any other negativity in their lives.

So, I am asking everyone who is reading this now to please remember your Walk to Emmaus. Remember the stories. Remember the laughter and the singing. Remember the sock puppets, or the haikus, or the tears. Remember who you were before you went and who you were immediately after that encounter with Our Lord and Savior on that road. How our hearts were burning within us as He spoke...remember, and share those memories with others! Attend a Reunion Group every week. Attend our Gatherings and bring a friend along! Identify people at your church or in your community who might benefit from experiencing a Walk to Emmaus, and then prayerfully Sponsor them as pilgrims on the next Walks. Volunteer your time, prayer, and effort to create Agape gifts that can be shared. Most importantly, please pray for our community, our churches, our pastors, and our people.

We have Walks coming up that we need to be getting excited about, namely Women's Walk #143 this November (Lay Director Chris McKemie), and Men's Walk #145 next Spring (LD: Arnie Waden), and another Women's Walk next fall (Brenda Hightower). These Walks need Pilgrims, Sponsors, Agape, and PRAYER!!!

The Walk to Emmaus movement is all about Servant Leadership and I am now actively training my replacements, just as Harold and LeeLeen Sundbeck did for me over the previous two years. Countless volunteers have served and led this Community, and contributed to its past, and will contribute now to its future. I'd like to thank everyone who will serve in 2018-2019, and encourage everyone to remember your stories, and share them with love whenever you get the opportunity. I pray for you to have many opportunities to share over the coming months.

**De Colores!**  
**Robert Turk**  
**Lay Director, GAEC**



# Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

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

**Bank Balance**  
**\$24,083.59**

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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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

[WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org](mailto:WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org)

**Join us for the July 14<sup>th</sup> Gathering and Potluck  
Dinner at Cedar Creek UMC on July 14th!**

**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](mailto:Chris@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Gina@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Gina@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Myles@austinemmaus.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org)

We will all be blessed by your sharing!



## 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
- ⇒ 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org)

## 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:

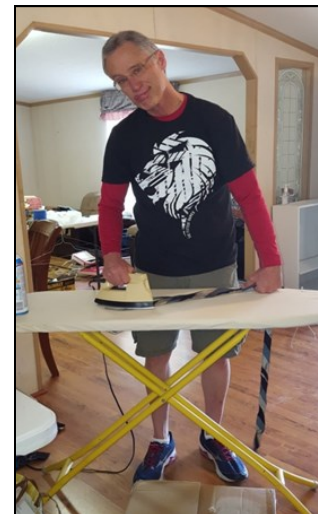
[WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org](mailto:WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org)

We will all be blessed by your words of wisdom!



## Blest Be the Ties That Bind

During Men's Walk #144, April 19-22, 2018, the Servant Team was asked to iron some ties for one of the Pilgrims' projects. Tom Green was a "floater" on the team and was available to help where needed. He looks like a pro at the ironing board, doesn't he?!





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## Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes June 7, 2018, Pflugerville UMC

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m., by LD Rob Turk, who opened with scripture, a prayer and presided over the meeting. The following directors were present: Rob Turk, Lay Director; Jeanne Randall, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative; Tisha Christopher, Member Services Coordinator; Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coordinator; Harold Sundbeck, Walk Support Coordinator; LeeLeen Sundbeck, Immediate Past Lay Director; Arden Waden, Lay Director Men's Walk #145 (*non-voting*); Brenda Hightower, Lay Director Women's Walk #146 (*non-voting*).

**MINUTES:** The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on May 3, 2018. The minutes were approved by email and the emails are filed with the Minutes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Patti made a motion that the Treasurer's Reports, presented by email, be accepted. Included in future reports will be a Scholarship Activity Report, as well as a copy of the Bank Statement. All reports are included with each month's minutes. The motion was seconded by Harold and the motion passed.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** – There is the possibility of changes to the 3-day schedule from Upper Room. Mel will keep us informed.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – Dates for the upcoming Gatherings have been confirmed. Steven has created flyers announcing the Gatherings, that can be shared with all the churches. He is continuing to work on getting Reunion Group and P.O.C information updated. The proposed topic for "training" at the July meeting is Sponsorship. The tentative plan for the September Gathering is to have an Agape Making Party.

**WALK SUPPORT** – Jeanne would like to add "green agape" to the signup 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** – Tisha is working on finding a way to make accessing the *WalkTalk* that will be more user friendly. There are options for taking the existing Publisher document and converting it to a format that will be easier to distribute. She will send us mockups of a website that will be user friendly for making updates, changes, etc. that will not be confined to one person being in control of the website and all the changes that should be made.

Tisha is working with Leap to Success to develop a comprehensive, user friendly, secure database to transition from the Excel spreadsheet currently in use. She will work with Mel to develop of a list of data that is needed, how the database is to be designed to protect the data of the Community, reports that are needed, etc. If all goes well, it may be ready to "test drive" by Brenda's Walk. She will form a committee to work with her.

### **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, time lines 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. The proposed contract was received by Mel, but several items must be worked out before moving forward with the possible change of location. There is too much to consider before making the change of location. Steven did a pros/cons review of the Twin Lakes facility for the Board to review.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Bylaws review to be done by the Board. Each of the BOD is to review and send suggestions to Tisha who will compile them for review at the next meeting. Tisha agreed to send each Board member a copy of the old language with a section to include suggested changes for each section. Also discussed was changing our Terms of office to coincide with the Calendar year, as we no longer have to "fit" the schedule of Rio Texas Emmaus. Jeanne suggested using a "pull/push" format for the Bylaws, so that if a section had a change or an amendment, the entire document didn't have to be reprinted, only the Article with the changes. Also discussed were some of the items in the Bylaws that could be used to create the basis for a Policies and Procedures manual.

**WALK #143 REPORT** – Chris emailed a written report to the Board (will be attached to the printed minutes) that everything is going smoothly towards Walk 143. Her team is in place. The first Team meeting was June 2<sup>nd</sup> and several of the Board attended the Worship service, signed the Covenant and were a visible presence to the Team.

**WALK #145 REPORT** – Arnie is eager to do the Team Selection. He has chosen Jack Foreman as his Board Rep. and possibly Rev. Ray Kaiser as the Spiritual Director.

**WALK #146 REPORT** – Brenda has Bill Hightower as her Outside Team Coordinator.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:20 p.m., a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned.

*Minutes taken and respectively submitted by Jeanne Randall, Secretary*





*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**

4<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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**