



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



August 2018

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 29, Number 8

A Letter From Your Lay Director

Dear Greater Austin Emmaus Community,

De Colores, everyone! I spent last week in Dallas at a weeklong Stephen Leaders Training course at the Dallas Westin Park Central Hotel. One of the funny and memorable things that happened to me was, while I was locked out of my hotel room, a family came walking down the hallway and I could tell from their accent that they were from another country. I asked, "Where are you all from?" and they answered "Nigeria," and I said, "Welcome to Texas!" The woman smiled and said, "You Texans need to turn the temperature down! It is too hot here!" We all laughed, and it was a moment of shared humanity and shared experience where, despite our differences, we could share a moment of laughter together about something out of our control...in this case, the heat. Yes, it is HOT down in Texas, y'all. My sincere prayer for all our community members is that you stay cool and find ways to beat the heat, such as swimming, or relaxing in the air conditioning, or whatever it takes.

We had our July Emmaus Gathering July 14th at Cedar Creek UMC, and it was a wonderful evening with our Emmaus family. The activities started at 4pm with a workshop on "The Joys of Sponsoring A Pilgrim" which was coordinated by Steven Scott (thank you again, Steven!). We had a good crowd of roughly 30 people discussing sponsorship. As we are all aware, without sponsors, we can't have pilgrims, and without pilgrims, we cannot put on Walks, and without Walks, we cannot do our part to grow the Kingdom of God...which is the purpose of this faith community. Sponsorship is critical to our present and future success. This workshop was followed by a delicious community meal, and then a lovely worship service that included upbeat music and a wonderful 4th Day Talk from Geri Gambino.

We have some exciting events upcoming that you are not going to want to miss! The next GAEC Gathering will be September 8th at Covenant UMC. We will meet at 4pm for an Agape Workshop, so please bring agape materials and ideas to share. We will have fun making pillow and table agape for upcoming Walks. Potluck dinner will be at 5:30pm and worship will begin at 6:30pm. The final Gathering of 2018 will be at Lake Travis UMC on November 3rd at 4pm. This Gathering will feature the Commissioning for Women's Walk #143, November 15-18 at Camp Young Judaea in Wimberley. The Candlelight service for this Walk will be at 7pm November 17th at CYJ, and Closing on Sunday afternoon, November 18th at 3:30pm. Please come and be a part of this experience for our newest pilgrims!

In 2019 we will have Men's Walk #145 that will occur in the Spring, and Women's Walk #146 that will occur in the Fall. In preparation for these Walks, we will be asking for your prayers, your gifts, your service, and your presence as the teams form and pilgrims are found and need sponsorship.

When I was at Stephen Leader Training last week, numerous people of a variety of denominations noticed my "Fishers of Men" James Avery bracelet and asked me if I had been on a Walk to Emmaus, or a Cursillo or ACTS retreat, or another 3-day retreat, but mostly they had heard of Walk to Emmaus. I must confess to a certain amount of pride on my part to be able to say, yes, I've heard of Walk to Emmaus, and I am actually the Lay Director for the Greater Austin Emmaus Community. Many people responded with a hearty DE COLORES and a hug and sent their love to us in Austin. I was impressed with how well the training program was administered and organized, and really felt like I was with 300 of the nicest people on the planet, and a good number of them were Emmaus people.

So, I'm hoping that this message finds you well, and that we might be inspired to see our Community grow and the Kingdom of God be increased through our efforts, large and small. I give thanks for each one of you, and for all that you're giving to help us gain momentum and to continue to conduct Walks to Emmaus, to help others know Jesus Christ a little more intimately, and to be Christ to one another each and every day.

De Colores!
Rob Turk
GAEC Lay Director 2018-2019



Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

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BOARD MEMBERS



Financial Statement as of 7/31/18

Bank Balance
\$26,453.71

Scholarships are available for participation on a Walk by request. Applications 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 at your church!



The *WalkTalk* deadline is the 20th of each month.
Info received after that will be printed
only if space is available.

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

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

Join us for the September Gathering and Potluck
Dinner at Covenant UMC on September 8th!
Come early for the Agape Making Workshop at
4:00. Don't miss the fun, fellowship, and food!

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

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

Contact: Chris@austinemmaus.org

CYJ, Wimberley

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>

Looking ahead...

Men's Walk #145

Women's Walk #146

* May 2 – 5, 2019

* November 14 – 17, 2019



** These dates are tentative.*

Note From Walk #143 Lay Director

Dear Blessed Emmaus Community,

Our Lord is guiding and preparing the team to be His servants for the pilgrims He is guiding to attend this Walk. Walk #143 is truly blessed!!!! Two team meetings have been held and seven talks previewed. The talks were well written, well presented, and our Lord's message was loud and clear. Our third meeting will be at Lake Travis UMC in August. We are so humbled to be on this spiritual journey.

Walk #143 has 19 pilgrims registered. I believe God places the name of a pilgrim in our hearts that He desires to go on this Walk and we just need to say, "Here I Am Lord" and be their sponsor. I pray we will all hear the name God has placed in our heart, sponsor them, and that this Walk will have 36 pilgrims!

I would like to thank all of you who have sponsored a pilgrim, signed up on the Agape and Prayer Vigil lists, and for your prayers and love. The Greater Austin Emmaus Community is a blessing and a joy!

De Colores!

Chris McKemie, Lay Director, Walk #143

Music Coordinator Still Needed!

Do you love singing music at Gatherings? Do you enjoy coordinating with host churches and Emmaus points-of-contact to ensure that there is singing at each Gathering?

If so, we still need a Music Coordinator for the Greater Austin Emmaus Community! If you are feeling called to do this, please contact Rob Turk at BM4MemberServices@austinemmaus.org for more information about serving our community in this way.



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

The team has already been preparing and having team meetings. We need to be preparing also! 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 prepare for 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



Excerpts from July 14, 2018 Fourth Day Talk Geri Gambino, Walk #629, February 1998

Has YOUR life gone exactly as YOU planned?

Is any ONE missing from that plan?

Is that Good? Or Bad? Or both?

Is any THING missing from that plan?

Like Jobs? Marriages? Vital Organs? Hair from Chemo?

Have you ever said?

Wow, I didn't see that coming. OR

Well, that didn't go as planned.

John 18:4 reminds us one of the greatest difficulties of Christ's earthly experience had to have been "knowing all that was going to happen to Him." Yet the depth of Christ's love and His willingness to face the Cross remained unchanged.

Do you think God should let us see what is ahead for us? Or do you think He has had a plan for us all this time? In His infinite wisdom He chose for us to remain completely unaware of the experiences awaiting us. Sometimes we say "If only I had known..." Far more often, we see the wisdom in NOT knowing.

I found a poem from Beth Moore many years ago that has brought me through many mountain top experiences and allowed me to help others through the valleys. Perhaps it will help you on your fourth day journey. It's called "The Life I Planned," and is printed on the next page.



The Life I Planned *by Beth Moore*

Has someone seen the life I planned?
It seems it's been misplaced
I've looked in every corner
It's lost without a trace.

I've found one I don't recognize
Things missing that were dear
Promises I'd hoped to keep
And dreams I'd dreamed aren't here.

Faces I had planned to see
Hands I planned to hold
Now absent in the pictures
Not the way I told

Has someone seen the life I planned?
Did it get thrown away?
God took my hand from searching
Then I heard Him say

"Child, your ears have never heard
Your eyes have never seen
Eternal plans I have for you
Are more than you could dream.

"You long to walk by sight
But I'm teaching eyes to see
I know what I am doing
'Til then, you must believe."

He's done so much, I felt ashamed
To know He heard my moans
To think I'd trade in all He's done
For plans made on my own.

I wept over His faithfulness
And how He'd proved Himself
How He'd gone beyond my dreams
And said to Him myself,

"No, my ears have never heard
My eyes have seen
Eternal plans you have for me
Are more than I could dream.

"Yes, I long to walk by sight
But You're teaching eyes to see
You know what You are doing
'Til then, I must believe."

I felt His great compassion
Mercy unrestrained
He let me mourn my losses
And showed to me my gains.

I offered Him my future
And released to Him my past
I traded in my dreams
For a plan He said would last.

I get no glimpse ahead
No certainties at all.
Except the presence of the One
Who will not let me fall.

Are you also searching?
For a life you planned yourself?
Have you looked in every corner?
Have you checked on every shelf?

Child, your ears have never heard
Your eyes have never seen
Eternal plans He has for you
Are more than you could dream.

Perhaps you long to walk by faith
But He's teaching eyes to see
He knows what He is doing
Child, step out and believe.

*"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind
has conceived what God has prepared for those
who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9*



The “Joys of Sponsorship” Workshop

Our July Gathering featured a special workshop on “The Joys of Sponsorship” that was put together by Steven Scott, our Board Representative for Gathering Support. We had about 30 people attend this session, including numerous “new” pilgrims fresh off of Men’s Walk #144. Multiple people gave testimonials about The Joys of Sponsorship, including what it has meant to them to be able to give the gift of a Walk to Emmaus experience to one of their friends. Here are some things to consider as you prepare to sponsor a pilgrim:

Prayer – let the idea to even ask someone if they are interested in a Walk to Emmaus be bathed in prayer, and pray for guidance and direction about the men and women in your life who might enjoy the experience.

Discussions – discuss the Walk, what it meant to you and in your faith journey, and the experience openly and honestly. Share materials from the Upper Room Ministries website and the Austin Emmaus site (<http://www.austinemmaus.org>) to inform the pilgrim of what to expect, and all the other considerations involved. Also, if they are married, discuss the information with the person’s spouse as appropriate.

Planning – the sponsor should be prepared to guide the pilgrim through the application process including obtaining their pastor’s signature on the forms, collecting money, filling out scholarship paperwork, etc. Agape letters also should be requested from friends and family members, where possible. These letters should be brought to the Walk on the Thursday evening that the Walk begins.

Managing Expectations – As we all know, the Walk to Emmaus can be transformative and life-changing, but none of us can guarantee to someone that the Walk is going to be anything but an opportunity for the person to spend 72 hours with Jesus Christ. Their response will be their own. So, we don’t want to “pitch it” as if they’re going to be changed, and certainly not that they NEED to be changed. What I was told by my sponsor was “Don’t Anticipate” and that guideline applied multiple times through the months it took for my Walk to finally occur. Some people are okay with being told to not anticipate things, but others want more detail about what is going to happen, or not happen. Answer their questions directly – there are no secrets about the Walk. If they have heard of Candlelight, don’t pretend it doesn’t exist, but perhaps suggest that there will be multiple special moments during the weekend that they will have to experience for themselves.

Getting them to the Walk – Please plan to arrive at the Walk site between 5:30pm and 6:00pm and follow the directions of the team members on site in order to get the pilgrim’s luggage situated, and their room arrangements confirmed, etc. There is no dinner served Thursday night, so it is traditional to stop on the way and treat the pilgrim to a nice meal beforehand. Do whatever is going to work for you and the pilgrim’s schedule so long as you arrive at the site around 5:30pm. Note that after you are dismissed from the Welcome Hour, there is a Sponsor’s Hour in which the pilgrim’s candle and lanyard are prayed over, and the sponsors all receive Holy Communion, and at this time you would pay \$5 cash for the Pilgrim’s 4th Day Book.

During the Weekend – The sponsor should be prepared to collect their mail, or feed their pets, or mow their lawn, or do whatever else the pilgrim’s family needs doing while your pilgrim is experiencing the Walk. These kinds of needs should be worked out prior to the weekend. Most critically, the sponsor should make every effort to attend the Candlelight service on Saturday night and pray over their pilgrim’s lanyard, and also to ensure that the pilgrim has at least 10 agape letters. The sponsor must attend Closing on Sunday afternoon and then ensure the pilgrim gets home safely from the weekend.

Following the weekend – The sponsor should do everything possible to get the pilgrim to attend the Welcome Back meeting, which is really the final event of a given Walk weekend. This gives the pilgrim a chance to share how their first few fourth days have gone, etc. Additionally, be sure the pilgrim knows about the GAEC Community Gatherings and is signed up to receive *WalkTalks* and other news and information from the Community. I think you’ll find your friendship with your pilgrim deepened by the experience. But there’s one more thing...

Reunion Groups – It is my strong belief that without Reunion Groups, one cannot fully experience the life of grace that the Walk opens up to us. If appropriate, invite your pilgrim to your Reunion Group and include them in regular meetings. If they cannot attend your group, encourage them to find a group that works for them. Continue to check with them that they are regularly attending a Reunion Group and hold them (lovingly) accountable for that basic, Christian discipline of small group participation and ministry.

Once again, the GAEC Board thanks everyone who has or will sponsor pilgrims for a Walk to Emmaus. Without sponsors, we cannot have pilgrims, and without pilgrims we cannot have Walks, and without Walks to Emmaus, well...I don’t want to imagine that. Grace and peace be with you as you consider who in your life would benefit from experiencing a Walk to Emmaus, and let’s make it happen!

De Colores!
Rob Turk



Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes July 14, 2018, Cedar Creek UMC

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Lay Director Rob Turk, who opened with scripture and a prayer, and presided over the meeting. The following directors were present: Rob Turk, Lay Director; Kristin Hampsten, Assistant Lay Director; Jeanne Randall, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative; Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coordinator; Harold Sundeck, Walk Support Coordinator and Community Letters. Not in attendance were: Tisha Christopher, Member Services Coordinator; Rev. Sylvester Chase, Spiritual Director; and LeeLeen Sundbeck, Immediate Past Lay Director. **QUORUM:** It was determined that 7 Directors were present, which did constitute a quorum.

MINUTES: The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on June 7, 2018. The minutes were approved with corrections, both by email and confirmed by a voice vote at the meeting.

REPORTS: The following officers, directors, or other persons presented reports to the Board of Directors, with any items discussed or actions taken as noted below. The following items were discussed:

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 Steven and the motion passed.

UPPER ROOM REPORT – We are still in negotiation with the YMCA. The tentative schedule for 2019 is as follows: Men's Walk #145, May 2 – 5, and Women's Walk #146, November 14 – 17. This is subject to change, pending negotiation and contract resolutions.

GATHERING SUPPORT – The topic for "training" at the July meeting is Sponsorship, to be held in the Fellowship Hall at Cedar Creek UMC. Geri Gambino will be the 4th Day Speaker and retired Pastor Bill Nogues will serve Communion. The plan for the September Gathering will be 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 online (PayPal, Google Pay. etc).

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 and no further progress has been made.
- 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. The review was tabled until the August 2nd meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Fund Raiser – It was suggested that GAEC have a Fundraiser selling t-shirts or polo shirts. More research needs to be done, but the consensus was that it was a great idea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next Board Meeting is August 2nd at Northwest Hills UMC, Room 112. The next Gathering is at Covenant UMC on September 8, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned, and the meeting adjourned at 8:16.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Jeanne Randall.





Greater Austin Emmaus Community

GAEC GATHERING

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road
Austin, TX 78727
4:00 – Agape Making Party
5:30 – Pot Luck Dinner
6:30 – Music and Worship

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

4TH Day Please Bring:
Last Name: A – G: Main Dishes
H – M: Desserts
N – Z: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

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

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567

ssarch@verizon.net

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Training Workshop at 4:00, Potluck dinner at 5:30, music and worship at 6:30

September 8, 2018

Saturday, September 8, 2018
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road, Austin, 78727
Agape Making Workshop 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

WalkTalk Deadline

Please remember that the deadline to submit articles and information to the *WalkTalk* is the 20th of each month. This is a firm deadline. Articles and info received after the 20th will be printed only if space is available. Thank you for helping me ensure that the *WalkTalk* is produced in a timely matter!

Kellye Noret
WalkTalk Editor

DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!

Agape Making Workshop at September Gathering!

The next GAEC Gathering will be September 8th at Covenant UMC. We will again meet at 4pm for a training workshop, and this one is going to be particularly fun – **Agape making!**

So, bring your agape materials and ideas to share. We will have fun making pillow and table agape for upcoming Walks. After the workshop, we will enjoy potluck dinner at 5:30, and worship at 6:30.

