



## The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



November 2018

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 29, Number 11

### The Call

I'm going to talk about hearing God's call, using our late Lay Director Rob Turk's life as an example. He first heard the call when asked to go on Walk #1316, the Best Walk Ever. (No, it really WAS the Best Walk Ever, take my word for it!) Then he heard other calls – to help around his church, to serve on an Emmaus team, and just to serve as often as he could wherever he could. He heard the call to be the Walk Lay Director for Men's Walk #1847, which did not make. It was rescheduled to March 2017 as Walk #141, and he again answered the call to be the Walk Lay Director. The next call was to be the Music Coordinator for the community. Then, he started the process to become the community Lay Director. Every time he heard the call, he answered with, "Here I am Lord, it is I Lord." He inspired others to listen for the call. I watched him grow as a person, and as a disciple of Christ, every time he answered the call. His wish was for everyone in this community to pray, listen, and answer the call.

There are a lot of calls going out.

This community needs your help. We have openings on the Board, and in Board support roles. We need team members and Lay Directors. I know you are thinking, "Mel is crazy." "I am not qualified," or "I don't have the time," and many other ways to justify our reasons for not answering the call. Remember, God does not call the equipped, but equips the called. I hear you at Gatherings or Candlelight saying, "I can't do that," or "They are doing it the wrong way," or "Why did they do it that way?" Remember that sock puppet skit you did on your Walk? (You were the star!) Before the Walk, you would have told me that there is no way you could get me to do that skit. But with God, all things are possible, and you did that skit. Hear the call. Answer the call. Say, "Here I am Lord!"

I hope to see 500 people at the next Gathering on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lake Travis UMC. Serving on a Team and Board Positions Training starts at 4:00, Potluck Dinner at 5:30, and singing and worship at 6:30. At the service we will be commissioning God's Team for Women's Walk #143. Remember, you are God's hands and feet!

**De Colores!**  
**Melvin Chambers**  
**Upper Room Support**



# Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

## Lay Director

*Vacant (Contact Kristin Hampsten)*  
[AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org)

## Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr.  
[SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org)

## Assistant Lay Director

Kristin Hampsten  
[AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org)

## Board Member for Gathering Support

Steven Scott  
[BM4GatheringSupport@austinemmaus.org](mailto:BM4GatheringSupport@austinemmaus.org)

## Board Member for Walk Support

Jeanne Randall  
[BM4WalkSupport@austinemmaus.org](mailto:BM4WalkSupport@austinemmaus.org)

## Board Member for Member Services

Tisha Christopher  
[BM4MemberServices@austinemmaus.org](mailto:BM4MemberServices@austinemmaus.org)

## Treasurer

Patti Bizzell  
[Treasurer@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Treasurer@austinemmaus.org)

## Upper Room Support

Mel Chambers  
[UpperRoomSupport@austinemmaus.org](mailto:UpperRoomSupport@austinemmaus.org)

## Immediate Past Lay Director

LeeLeen Sundbeck  
[ImmediatePastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:ImmediatePastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org)

## Registrar

Myles McKemie  
[Registrar@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Registrar@austinemmaus.org)

## Secretary

Harold Sundbeck  
[Secretary@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Secretary@austinemmaus.org)

## Database Coordinator

*Open*  
[DatabaseCoordinator@austinemmaus.org](mailto:DatabaseCoordinator@austinemmaus.org)

## Electronic Communications

Ed Turner  
[ElectronicCommunications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:ElectronicCommunications@austinemmaus.org)

## Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Jeanne Randall  
[PrayerVigilCoordinator@austinemmaus.org](mailto:PrayerVigilCoordinator@austinemmaus.org)

## Community Letters

Harold Sundbeck  
[CommunityLetters@austinemmaus.org](mailto:CommunityLetters@austinemmaus.org)

## Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Jeanne Randall  
[FoodGiftAgapeCoordinator@austinemmaus.org](mailto:FoodGiftAgapeCoordinator@austinemmaus.org)

## Music Coordinator

*Vacant*

## WalkTalk Editor

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



**BOARD MEMBERS**



## Financial Statement as of 10/21/18

**Bank Balance**  
**\$29,865.72**

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

## GAEC Website

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

## GAEC Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/)

## Emmaus Sunday! Don't forget!

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



The *WalkTalk* deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org)

Join us for the November Gathering at Lake Travis UMC on November 3<sup>rd</sup>! Serving on a Board and Board Positions Training at 4:00, Potluck Dinner at 5:30, Music and Worship at 6:30. We will also be commissioning the team of Women's Walk #143. Check out the Gathering schedule on the last page so you don't miss the next one!

## 2018 Austin Community Sponsored Emmaus Walk

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

CYJ, Wimberley

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>

## Looking ahead to 2019...

### Men's Walk #145

Arnie Waden, Lay Director

April 11 – 14, 2019

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

CYJ, Wimberley

### Women's Walk #146

Lay Director TBD

November 14 – 17, 2019

CYJ, Wimberely



## 2019 GAEC Community Sponsored Walks

Be in prayer about who you think is ready to go on their Walk, and offer to sponsor them!



## WELCOME BACK!!

### Welcome Back for Women's Walk #143

The Welcome Back for Women's Walk #143 will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup> in the chapel of Northwest Hills UMC. It will begin at 4:00, and will be followed by snacks in the Family Life Center. We will celebrate communion during the Welcome Back, and the community is invited to come share in the joy of this time.

## Commissioning of Women's Walk #143

Dear Emmaus Community,

The commissioning of the team for Women's Walk #143 will be held at the November Gathering on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lake Travis UMC. I pray many of you will be able to attend to pray for this team, and to participate in the commissioning of this team.

In less than a month, we will be "walking"!!! We are so very blessed by your prayers and support.

DeColores!

Chris McKemie

Lay Director Women's Walk #143



## Very Important Note From Your Editor

This . . . . .



### 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)

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**

## The *WalkTalk* Needs YOU!

The *WalkTalk* depends on you to keep it informative, interesting, and enjoyable to read. Please send your . . .

- ⇒ Emmaus information
- ⇒ Chrysalis information
- ⇒ Kairos information
- ⇒ 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)



## GAEC Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/>



## Next GAEC Board Meeting

Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.  
Covenant UMC  
4410 Duval Road  
Austin, 78727  
We will meet in the Library.

The community is welcome to attend. You do not have to be a member of the Board!



## Fourth Day Corner

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* is looking for dates of upcoming Kairos and Chrysalis events, including contact info for those who wish to serve on these weekends. Please send this info to:

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

## Clergy Corner

Community clergy, would you like to write an article 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!



## 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 ensure that the *WalkTalk* is produced in a timely manner!

**Kellye Noret**  
**WalkTalk Editor**





## In Memoriam



### **Rob Turk** **August 31, 1971 ~ October 6, 2018**

Robert (Rob) Bryan Turk, 47, of Pflugerville, passed away unexpectedly on October 6, 2018. He was born in Sacramento, California on August 31, 1971. Rob graduated from Rockwall High School, Rockwall, Texas, in 1989. He received a BA from the University of Texas in 1993. He was married to Yolanda Turk on July 7, 2012.

Rob was a Software Quality Assurance Engineer for several Austin companies, most recently at SparkCognition, Inc. He was a member of Pflugerville First United Methodist Church, and was the Lay Director of the Greater Austin Emmaus Community. He was also the Lay Director of Men's Walk #141 held March 30 – April 2, 2017 (*see team picture below*). He had a passion for his family, his church, music, and a real enthusiasm for life.

He is survived by his wife, Yolanda; his son, Max; step-children: Jeremy Cuellar and Jessica Diaz; step-grandchildren: Bryee, Julia, and Jazzlyn; parents Bob and Pat Turk; brother Steve Turk and family; cousins: Jessica Dunnam, and Jared, Jordan, and Joel Tyler.

Funeral Services were held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 13, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church in Pflugerville. You can still leave an online condolence for the family at [www.cookwaldencapitalparks.com](http://www.cookwaldencapitalparks.com).



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## Serving on a Team and Board Positions Training

Our next Gathering training will be at 4:00 pm at Lake Travis UMC on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The topic will be Serving on a Team and Board Positions Training. Mel Chambers, the Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board member for Upper Room Support, will lead the training. I thought that some personal testimony would illustrate the importance of both to our growth, and to hearing God's call.

I went on Houston Emmaus Community Walk #47 at St. Paul's Cursillo Center February 13-16, 1991. In those days, Houston had what they called Pastor's Walks that began Wednesday evening and ended on Saturday, so pastors could preach at their own churches. However, they found out that most of the pastors did not preach at their own churches, so they quit having Pastor's Walks. My table family, Matthew, consisted mostly of pastors. Only the table leader and I were lay people. They had conversations at the table that were over my head, but I learned a lot and was changed by God's love. I then was asked to work the Men's Walk #59 in August 1991 as a table leader. I jumped at the chance to give back to others the love and forgiveness that I had felt from God on my weekend.

As part of my service to God, I was asked to give a talk. That was really the first talk that I had ever given to a group of people that had me sharing personal testimony. I remember giving the practice talk to the team when I was sick, but I needed to do it then because it was the next to last team meeting. To say that I was nervous would be an understatement! I was scared that I would do a bad job and people would think badly of me. I managed to get through the talk and they were very loving and said that I just needed to not be sick, and to practice the talk. At a break, my friend on the team said that my legs were shaking, and I didn't even know it!

When the weekend came, I prayed for God to use me to show his love to the pilgrims, and to guide me to be a good facilitator as the table leader. When it came time to give my talk, my prayer partner prayed with me and helped calm me down, saying that God was doing the talk through me and using my life to be an example to others. I then felt very humbled to be able to participate in God's plan for the pilgrims, and even the team. I did the talk much better this time and had the peace that passes all understanding that God provides to his followers. The experience was a good one for me because I was able to hear all the talks again and really understand what God wanted me to do after being at the table with all the pastors on my Walk to Emmaus. Also, I realized that by serving God on the weekend, that God's love that was flowing through me to the pilgrims also affected me as well!

When I first came to Austin and went to my first Gathering on a Thursday night, there were only a few people there. I mentioned to some that in Houston, we had our Gatherings on Saturdays. Well, over the next year I was only able to make one Gathering because I worked late, and traffic is bad in Austin to get to a Gathering at 7:00 pm across town. Emmaus was a big part of my wife's and my life in Houston, and we had not been able to participate and get to know people in the Austin community. We felt very disconnected from Emmaus and from serving God. God had put this issue back on my mind and I mentioned this to one of my reunion group members, Harold Sundbeck, after our reunion group meeting. I agreed to come to the Board meeting the next night. I discussed my suggestion to the Board to move the Gatherings to Saturdays to increase attendance and help revive the community. The Board was already discussing how the attendance was not as much as it could be and agreed to consider my suggestion. I was asked after the meeting by Kristin Hampsten to join the Board because the Board position for Gathering Support was open. I was surprised by that invitation and stated that I would pray about it. I prayed to God that night, and the next morning, to give me guidance as to what God wanted me to do. I realized that God was telling me that if this is important to me, then I need to step up and make it happen myself. I called Kristin and agreed to join the Board and be the Gathering Support person to implement the Saturday Gathering concept.

Fast forward to today and we have had three Saturday Gatherings, two training events, and one Agape Party. We have had an average of around 115 at the Gatherings that have been made up from people all over our community. I have been blessed by hearing God's call and serving on the Board. I have been blessed by all the people I have been able to meet and work with from the community. My wife and I feel connected to Emmaus and in serving God again. We have been told by members of the community that they feel more connected with other churches as well. God is Good, All the Time. All the Time, God is Good!!

The Upper Room on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> had something that really resonated to me when I read it. It stated that God has created us specifically for the good works that our particular skills, talents, and gifts can meet. Please prayerfully consider coming to the training event on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm to learn more about using your gifts, skills, and talents in serving on a team or being a Board member. Remember, God uses us to be his hands and feet to do his work!

**De Colores!**  
**Steven Scott**  
**Gathering Support Board Member**



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**Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**  
**October 4, 2018**  
**Pflugerville First UMC**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Lay Director Rob Turk, who opened the meeting with a prayer, and presided over the meeting.

The following directors were present: Lay Director, Rob Turk; Assistant Lay Director, Kristin Hampsten; Secretary, Harold Sundbeck; Treasurer, Patti Bizzell; Upper Room Representative, Mel Chambers; Member Services Coordinator, Tisha Christopher; Gathering Support Coordinator, Steven Scott; Walk Support Coordinator, Jeanne Randall; Spiritual Director, Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr; and Immediate Past Lay Director, LeeLeen Sundbeck.

**QUORUM:** All Board members were present.

**MINUTES** – The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on September 5, 2018. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by email.

**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 had sent out the financial report by email and it had been approved prior to the Board meeting. She reported she has opened an account with Square since our current account was opened by our previous Treasurer, Nicki Carstarphen, and she was unable to get any information from Square about a recent challenge to a charge. Patti reported the current checking account balance of the General Fund is \$29,724.91.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** – Mel Chambers reported that Brenda Hightower had to step down as Lay Director for Women's Walk #145 since she is moving to Dallas. He says he will order Upper Room devotionals for Walk #143 as we get closer to the Walk. He also reported that the Community has not made a charitable donation known as The Gift to the Upper Room. Discussion as to sending a contribution for year end. Jeanne made the motion to send a check for 10% of our gathering offerings. Mel offered an amendment to the motion of 10% or \$500, whichever was greater. Kristen seconded the motion with the amendment and it passed unanimously.

**WALK SUPPORT** – Jeanne Randall reported the trailer was picked up by Eben Files and will be delivered to the McKemie's house. The Agape List and the Prayer Vigil sign-ups are nearly full.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – Steven reported upcoming Gathering locations: January 12<sup>th</sup> at Northwest Hills UMC; March 9<sup>th</sup> at Bethany UMC; May 4<sup>th</sup> at Pflugerville UMC; and July 13<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Creek UMC. Steven asked Mel if he would lead the discussion about Serving on a Team and Board Positions Training at the November Gathering at Lake Travis UMC.

**MEMBER SUPPORT** – Tisha Christopher reported she had not heard back from the database group and that she was having some issues with Mail Chimp. Our Facebook group is gaining new members.

**OLD BUSINESS** – We will meet on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 at Kristin's house for updating the By-laws.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Ideas for future articles to be submitted to the *WalkTalk* about the duties of the various Board members. We will meet on October 21<sup>st</sup> for updating the By-laws.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 p.m.**

*Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.*







*Greater Austin Emmaus Community*

## **GAEC GATHERING**

### **Saturday November 3, 2018**

Lake Travis UMC

1502 North RR 620

Lakeway, TX 78734

4:00 – Serving On a Team & Board Positions Training

5:30 – Pot Luck Dinner

6:30 – Music and Worship

Commissioning of Women's Walk #143 Team

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

4<sup>TH</sup> Day Please Bring:

Last Name: A – G: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

H – M: Main Dishes

N – Z: Desserts

Child care is available for ages 5 and under with reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, October 31<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567 or

[ssarch@verizon.net](mailto:ssarch@verizon.net)

## Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Training Workshops at 4:00 PM

Potluck dinner at 5:30 PM

Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

### November 3, 2018

Saturday, November 3, 2018

Lake Travis UMC

1502 RR 620 North, Lakeway, 78734

Serving on a Team and

Board Positions Training at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:30

Music and Worship at 6:30

Commissioning of Women's Walk #143

4th Day Speaker: Becky Kuykendall

### January 12, 2019

Saturday, January 12, 2019

Northwest Hills UMC

7050 Village Center Drive, Austin, 78731

**NOTE DIFFERENT TIMES**

**FOR THIS GATHERING ONLY!**

The Joy of Sponsoring a Pilgrim Training at 5:00

Potluck Dinner at 6:00

Music and Worship at 7:00

4th Day Speaker TBD

### March 9, 2019

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Bethany UMC

10010 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, 78750

Agape Making Party at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:30

Music and Worship at 6:30

4th Day Speaker TBD



**Emmaus Gathering**

### May 4, 2019

Saturday, May 4, 2019

First UMC Pflugerville

500 Pecan Street, Pflugerville, 78660

Men's Walk #145 Welcome Back at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:30

Music and Worship at 6:30

4th Day Speaker TBD

### July 13, 2019

Saturday, July 13, 2019

Cedar Creek UMC

5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612

Agape Making Party at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:30

Music and Worship at 6:30

4th Day Speaker TBD

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

Yum!

