



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



April 2019

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 30, Number 4

If Not Us, Then WHO??

Below are the lyrics to a song that I think about a lot. The sentence that speaks to me the most is when God responds and says, "That is why I created YOU." Yes, God created us to be God's hands and feet and to do God's work. I know there are times we all have shaken our fist and yelled "WHY?" But do we get involved and try to do anything about what is going on around us, in our city, or in our world? Do we serve on any of the Walks? Do we volunteer and serve on the Board for the Greater Austin Emmaus Community? Do we volunteer at our churches? Do we get involved, or do we just shake our fist and yell out?

I woke up this morning
Saw a world full of trouble now
Thought, how'd we ever get so far down
How's it ever gonna turn around
So I turned my eyes to Heaven
I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of
People living in poverty
Children sold into slavery
The thought disgusted me
So, I shook my fist at Heaven
Said, "God, why don't You do something?"
He said, "I did, I created you"
If not us, then who
If not me and you
Right now, it's time for us to do something
If not now, then when
Will we see an end
To all this pain
It's not enough to do nothing
It's time for us to do something
I'm so tired of talking
About how we are God's hands and feet
But it's easier to say than to be

If we do not volunteer or get involved, then who will? What will happen with the Emmaus movement? It is time for us to all be involved. We all have been given different gifts and now is the time to put them to use.

Is Jesus calling you? I know He is counting on you and on me. Together we can make a difference. Please be in prayer about joining the Board, serving on a Walk, or serving on an outside team for a Walk. We need you!

Open positions on the Board are Assistant Lay Director, and Member Support. We also need someone to be in charge of the music for the Gatherings.

If you are interested in serving on a Walk to Emmaus, or if it has been more than 6 years since you filled out an application, please go to <https://www.austinemmaus.org/> and fill out one. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please email the Board at bod@austinemmaus.org.

As you all know, we can't begin a Walk until all Prayer Vigil slots are filled, so please go to <https://www.austinemmaus.org/> and sign up for any open prayer times. Also, we need you to sign up for agape for Walk #145.

DeColores!
LeeLeen Sundbeck
Acting Lay Director



Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

Acting Lay Director

LeeLeen Sundbeck

LayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr.

SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Lay Director

Vacant

Board Member for Gathering Support

Steven Scott

BM4GatheringSupport@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Walk Support

Jeanne Randall

BM4WalkSupport@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Member Services

Vacant

Treasurer

Patti Bizzell

Treasurer@austinemmaus.org

Upper Room Support

Mel Chambers

UpperRoomSupport@austinemmaus.org

Immediate Past Lay Director

Vacant

Registrar

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Registrar@austinemmaus.org

Secretary

Harold Sundbeck

Secretary@austinemmaus.org

Database Coordinator

Vacant

Electronic Communications

Ed Turner

ElectronicCommunications@austinemmaus.org

Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Jeanne Randall

PrayerVigilCoordinator@austinemmaus.org

Community Letters

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CommunityLetters@austinemmaus.org

Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Jeanne Randall

FoodGiftAgapeCoordinator@austinemmaus.org

Music Coordinator

Vacant

WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org



BOARD MEMBERS



Financial Statement as of 3/20/19

Bank Balance
\$26,588.21

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/

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 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 May Gathering at Pflugerville UMC
on May 18th. Welcome back for Men's Men #145 at
4:00, Potluck Dinner at 5:30, Music and Worship at
6:30. See the Gathering schedule on the last page so
you don't miss the next one! Childcare available
with advance notice by May 15th to
ssarch@verizon.net.

2019 Austin Community Sponsored Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk #145

Arnie Waden, Lay Director
Ray Kiser, Spiritual Director
Jack Foreman, Board Rep.
Myles McKemie, STC
Candlelight – May 4, 7:30 PM
Closing – May 5, 3:30 PM
Welcome Back – May 18, 4:00 PM, First UMC Pflugerville

May 2 – 5, 2019

Contact: Arnie@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Jack@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Myles@austinemmaus.org

Eagles Wings Retreat Center, Burnet

Women's Walk #146

Dot Files, Lay Director
Spiritual Director TBD

Date TBD

Contact: Dot@austinemmas.org

Location TBD



Attention Community! Very Important Info About Walk #145!

Due to several changes in management staff at Camp Young Judaea, we have had to move the location and dates for Men's Walk #145. The new date is May 2 – 5, 2019, at Eagles Wings Retreat Center on Ranch Road 2341 in Burnet, Texas. The location is just off State Highway 29, approximately 3.3 miles west of Burnet and approximately 2.5 miles North on RR 2341, to the stone entrance sign on the right. We are extremely excited about this new location and the excellent facilities for Men's Walk #145.

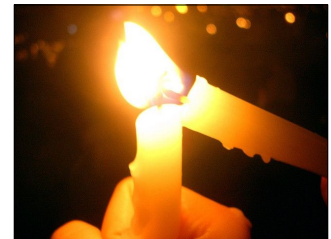
DeColores!
Harold Sundbeck



Candlelight...A Renewal!

Do you remember the sense of awe and delight when you entered the room to see all those candles and the faces of friends and strangers singing the Jesus Song? Every time I attend Candlelight or serve on a Servant Team, I get to relive my first time walking into that experience. If you haven't attended one in a while I want to encourage each of you to attend the Candlelight for Men's Walk #145 at Eagles Wings Retreat Center in Burnet on Saturday, May 4th at 7:30 p.m. As members of this Emmaus community, we need to show our pilgrims that we support them in their continuing spiritual journey, and Candlelight is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our love for them. Remember, Christ is counting on you!

DeColores!
Harold Sundbeck



Next Gathering!

Saturday, May 18, 2019
Pflugerville UMC
500 East Pecan Street, Pflugerville, 78660

Men's Walk #145 Welcome Back at 4:00 p.m.
Potluck at 5:30 p.m.
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.



Emmaus Gathering

Emmaus Walk #145 Needs Pilgrims!

Men's Walk to Emmaus #145, May 2 – 5, 2019 has 18 pilgrims. There must be a minimum of 20 for the Walk to make. Please pray about who you think is ready to go on their Walk, and offer to sponsor them. If you have not sponsored someone before, or if it's been a while and you need a refresher, go to the link below for information or applications.

<http://austinemmaus.org/pdf/EmmausSponsorPacket.pdf>



Next GAEC Board Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2019, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Northwest Hills UMC, Room 109
7050 Village Center Drive
Austin, TX 78731

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



Upcoming Walk!

Men's Walk #145
May 2 – 5, 2019
Eagles Wings Retreat Center in Burnet

**Please keep these team members in your prayers
as they prepare for THE BEST WALK EVER!**

Conference Room Team

Arnie Waden – *Lay Director*
Charles Murphy
Coe Groce
Dan Byron
David Highland
David Kendrick
David Scott
Don Kuykendall
Gary Johnson
Greg Graham
Harold Sundbeck
Ivan Dominguez
Jack Foreman – *Board Rep.*
Rev. Jim Roberts
Joel Roehling
Jon Nelson
Kenny Kant
Rev. Larry Shores
Mike Carmagnola
Myles McKemie – *Servant Team Coordinator*
Rev. Ray Kiser – *Spiritual Director*
Scott Broberg
Scotty Holman
Rev. Tim Abel
Rev. Tina Carter

Servant Team

Becky Kuckendohl
Bob Miles
Chris McKemie
Diane Merwarth
Don Greenway
Janice McNutt
Jeanne Randall
Myles McKemie
Pam Carmagnola
Patti Bizzell
Paula Bryant
Sherri Wilkison
Steven Scott
Tom Rioux
Willie Maletta



Reunion Group Meditation: Seeking Sisters

After my pilgrim walk in 2000, I was unable to join or start a reunion group because I worked full time, and all of my nights and weekends were devoted to keeping house and/or socializing. Once I retired in 2005, the door flew wide open to joining a group. For several years there were between 4 to 6 of us meeting like clockwork every Tuesday morning. Like so many people, there were serious life challenges that arose for each of us. I can personally attest to the power of laying down my burdens at reunion group and knowing that my friends would pray for me and keep my revelations completely confidential.

Then came the start of attrition, a slow but steady decline in membership. There were three of us who realized we could change our meeting place to one a lot closer to our homes, so we did that. For a brief time, we added three more members, then two left. Then one left. Then another left. Then we added one. Then we lost one. Now we are two.

While all of this was going on, I was privileged to be asked to join a Walk conference room team in 2018. During team formation our Board representative counseled us on the importance of being in a reunion group and passed out a document that describes what makes a good reunion group. She mentioned that she had been in the same group for decades!!! As I read through the document, I realized my group was not even meeting some basic guidelines, such as meeting faithfully every week. Not even close! At that time, we were three, and it seemed like we were always traveling or meeting service people at our homes or going to the doctor on our weekly reunion day. No fault of any one of us, it just kept being that way. So when we became two, my reunion buddy and I had a serious conversation about going forward. Should we disband? Should we look at another day or time? Could we recommit to our Tuesday morning?

We prayed about our choices. We decided not to give up! We made a plan to look ahead at each month and settle on our availability ahead of time on our calendars, and to do everything in our power NOT to schedule over our reunion time. We also changed our start time from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM on Tuesday mornings. Meantime, we have recommitted to meeting and giving grace when life intervenes. We ARE the Seeking Sisters! We seek God's grace, we seek God's forgiveness, and we seek to set good priorities. We will pray for women in the Lakeway area who have been on a Walk and looking for a reunion group to consider joining us at 9:00 AM Tuesday mornings at the Starbuck's shop in the Randall's grocery store in Lakeway. If interested, call me at 512-656-1652 or email me at winegoddess99@hotmail.com.

DeColores!
Anne Rioux

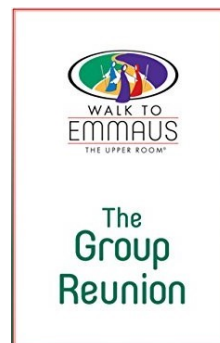


Reminders for an Effective Reunion Group

- ⇒ Commit yourselves. When you feel like attending least, you need it most!
- ⇒ Prepare yourselves ahead of time.
- ⇒ Practice your disciplines in the intervening days.
- ⇒ Uphold one another. Discourage one another from making superficial responses, and be accountable to the members of your group for your Christian practice and growth.
- ⇒ Pray for one another.
- ⇒ Focus on the service card. Do not go over one hour.
- ⇒ Retreat with one another. Get together as a group once or twice a year for a quiet day of spiritual conversation, reflection on scripture, and prayer.
- ⇒ Plan your discipleship, set personal goals.
- ⇒ Act as a group. Plan to be in mission as a group.
- ⇒ Be spiritual friends. Help one another keep the fire burning inside.

THINGS TO AVOID

- ⇒ Be open to discussion of the members' expectations of the group and review every 6 months how well the group is meeting everyone's needs.
- ⇒ Be available to meet at a sick member's bedside if warranted.
- ⇒ Overseer mentality. No one takes over, dominates, reprimands.
- ⇒ Fear, lack of trust in group members.
- ⇒ Clique attitude: Caring only for each other.
- ⇒ Spiritual anemia or dullness arising from excess personal introspection rather than Christian action.





Greater Austin Emmaus Community

GAEC GATHERING

Saturday, May 18, 2019

First UMC Pflugerville
500 East Pecan Street
Pflugerville, TX 78660

4:00pm – Welcome Back for Men's Walk #145
upstairs in the Attic of the Family Life Center
5:30pm – Potluck Dinner in the Family Life Center
6:30pm – Music and Worship in the Sanctuary

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

4TH Day Please Bring First Letter of Last Name:

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, May 15th.

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567

or ssarch@verizon.net

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2019
Bethany UMC

The Board of Directors met March 7th at Bethany UMC. The following directors were present: LeeLeen Sundbeck, Acting Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative (C); Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coordinator; Jeanne Randall, Walk Support Coordinator; and Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr., Spiritual Director. C = Present by Call-in. **QUORUM:** Five Board members were present with one by call-in. Arnie Waden, Lay Director Men's Walk #145 (*non-voting*) and Jack Forman, Board Rep. for Men's Walk #145 (*non-voting*) were also present.

MINUTES – The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on February 7, 2019. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, with corrections, 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. The Frost Bank balance reconciles with the Aplos balance of \$27,442.51. Patti made a motion to have the financial report approved. Steven seconded the motion. All approved.

Franchise Tax forms have been filed with the State of Texas and Form 990N has been filed with the IRS.

We have 10 pilgrims with funds deposited.

UPPER ROOM REPORT – Mel reported there have been several changes in staff at CYJ and they do not have us on their schedule for our upcoming Walk. They never sent us a contract so we will need to find another location. Discussion followed to contact Highland Lakes, YMCA, and Eagles Wings Retreat Center in Burnet. Steven made a call to the Eagles Wings Emmaus Lay Director since they had to cancel their Walk at Eagles Wings Retreat to see if we can take their Walk dates.

Dot Files has agreed to serve as the Lay Director for Women's Walk #146.

As follow-up, LeeLeen Sundbeck, Harold Sundbeck, Patti Bizzell, Steven Scott, and Paula Scott visited Eagles Wings Retreat Center in Burnet on Sunday, March 10th and will sign contracts to use the facility May 2 – 5, 2019.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR – Pastor Chase brought up concerns about why we seem to have trouble getting pilgrims for our Walks. He posed the question as to how we can light a fire within our Emmaus community to generate enthusiasm once again. It's obvious it is not getting support from the top – Bishop, District Superintendents, or Pastors – so we need to grow it from the bottom up. Discussion followed to determine how we can use other means, i.e. social media, entuse the POC's to send out info to their congregations, etc. LeeLeen suggested Board members attend other churches to demonstrate our support for Emmaus.

GATHERING SUPPORT – Steven brought info on Eagles Wings Retreat Center in Burnet and shared with the Board. He will contact Eagles Wings Retreat Center on Friday to get more information and let us know if we can move the Walk to May 2 – 5. We will make a decision this weekend since we have our Gathering and Team Commissioning on Saturday.

Steven is finalizing the musicians for the Gathering which also includes musicians from the Eagles Wings community. Patti Breaux will be giving the 4th Day talk. There will be an Agape making party prior to the Gathering. We will need greeters to help direct our guests. Harold will contact Joe Dale Morris to send out an email to those on his contact list to help with the Gathering.

WALK #145 REPORT – Arnie reported there are 10 pilgrims in the Registrar with several other potential pilgrims. Arnie made a request for a ½ scholarship for a pilgrim. Steven seconded and all approved.

Arnie will start contacting the pilgrims and sponsors concerning the potential date change for Walk #145. The next Team meeting is on March 9th at Bethany UMC.

NEW BUSINESS

LeeLeen will make an announcement about the open Board positions at the Gathering. Also, that due to potential changes in the date for the next Gathering we will table filling the positions until a later date. The job descriptions that Patti sent out were discussed and will be placed on the website so the community can see the duties for each position.

LeeLeen brought up discussion about articles for the *WalkTalk*. She will write the Lay Director article, and Steven and Harold will also submit articles.

No action at this time for the financial audit.

The Board signed the revised By-laws and they were imprinted with our seal.

Harold Sundbeck closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Meeting
Minutes**

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.

2019 Greater Austin Emmaus Community Gatherings

Training Workshops at 4:00 PM

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 PM

Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

May 18, 2019

Saturday, May 18, 2019

First UMC Pflugerville

500 East 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!



GAEC Facebook page!

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

