



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



May 2019

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 30, Number 5

Connected Hearts, Unlimited Possibility

Can you find yourself in this purpose statement, “Connected Hearts, Unlimited Possibility”?

I was invited to a two-day meeting with my company to create a purpose statement for our BRIDGE. BRIDGE is our corporate program of giving back to our communities in the different cities where we are located. I felt very honored and blessed to be chosen to be a part of a group of 10 people to attend this meeting out of the 50 BRIDGE Coaches in our company. It started out a little weird at first. I had been asked on three other occasions to be a part of a planning meeting for BRIDGE, but never anything as big as a purpose statement. Wow.

As I think about how we came up with these four words and what they mean to me, I also pondered about my purpose in Emmaus and what God has planned for me, for you, and for the Emmaus movement. Whenever I think about this, I go back to the Changing Our World talk.

The only way I see our world changing is if we all work together for one thing, and the only way is to lead by example. Our actions and our words reflect God, who lives inside us, to people who may never open a Bible or enter a church. Never forget that you are an ambassador for Christ and a messenger of hope by asking his Spirit to empower you to deliver the Good News with your actions and your words. How do we connect hearts? How do we have unlimited possibilities?

The most basic and powerful way to connect hearts is to listen! Just listen! Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention. A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intended words.

As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same.

Remember when you were in Bible school and you learned the song, “This Little Light of Mine”? It goes like this:

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine. Let it shine for you and let it shine for me.”

Letting our light shine...Connect Hearts that then gives us Unlimited Possibility to do all. Let’s live by example by “Letting our Lights Shine” to “Connected Hearts” and have “Unlimited Possibility” to do all things through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

DeColores!
LeeLeen Sundbeck
Acting Lay Director



Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

Acting Lay Director

LeeLeen Sundbeck

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Assistant Lay Director

Vacant

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WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org



BOARD MEMBERS



Financial Statement as of 4/20/19

Bank Balance
\$29,269.71

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

Upcoming Gathering! Don't miss it!

Join us for the May Gathering at Pflugerville UMC on May 18th. Welcome back for Men's Walk #145 at 4:00, Potluck Dinner at 5:30, Music and Worship at 6:30. Childcare available with advance notice by May 15th to ssarch@verizon.net

2019 GAEC and Diakonia Emmaus Eagles Wings Community Walks

GAEC 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

Joint GAEC/DEEWC Women's Walk #146

Sept. 26 – 29, 2019

Eagles Wings Retreat Center, Burnet

Nelda Carpenter, Lay Director

Karen Stocks, Spiritual Director

Paulette Widmer, Board Rep.

Candlelight – Sept. 28, 7:30 PM

Closing – Sept. 29, 3:30 PM

Welcome Back TBD



Want to Serve on a Team?

If you are interested in being selected for a Conference Room Team, go to <http://www.austinemmaus.org> then “Team Application” and complete the online Team Application, then click “Submit Application.”

If you are interested in being on a Servant Team, go to <http://www.austinemmaus.org> then “Walks” and contact the Servant Team Coordinator for a Walk.



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 GAEC Board Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 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!



GAEC Facebook page!

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



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.
4th Day speaker: Michelle Parker



Emmaus Gathering

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



Upper Room Emmaus Ministries

If you would like to receive email from The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries, please go to this link.

[https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/
signup/1728792/1367415/](https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1728792/1367415/)



Strength in Numbers

(Colossians 1: 9-14) “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

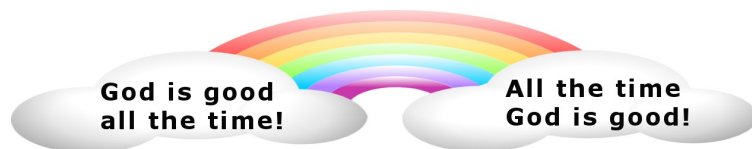
When I first came to Austin from Houston in September 2015, my wife, Paula, and I were looking for a church that was involved in an Emmaus Community. We had both attended the Walk to Emmaus in 1991 and were heavily involved in the community as a part of our life. I looked online and found out that there were a number of communities in the Austin area which seemed strange since we only had three in all of the Houston area divided into territories. I worked a team in 2017 and 2018. I joined the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) Board in March 2018 to help with the Gatherings. Then the Lord put it back on my heart to reach out to the Diakonia Emmaus Eagles Wings Community (DEEWC) about a possible merger. I discussed this with the GAEC Board at our September 2018 monthly Board meeting and asked for permission to discuss a possible merger with the DEEWC. I explained that DEEWC actually had the same territory that GAEC covered in the Austin area. The Board was not aware that they existed and had the same territory we had. I explained that we could merge the members of the Board from both communities and have a stronger Board. GAEC has two Emmaus Walks a year and so does DEEWC. We have the walks at the same time within weeks of each other. We have our Gatherings almost the same times every other month. I discussed how awesome it would be to have the ability to spread the walks out to allow Women's and Men's walks every six months instead of every year. We could have a larger community to select team members and pilgrims. We could be more ecumenical since GAEC is mostly supported by Methodist churches and DEEWC is mostly supported by Presbyterian churches. Also, by merging together we would gain excitement and synergy that we each alone do not have. The Board agreed to allow me to discuss this with the DEEWC board. I met with the Lay Director and Past Lay Director of DEEWC and they were favorable to explore the possibility of merging further. The Board of DEEWC has met and also has looked favorably on pursuing the possibility of a merger.

We had a joint gathering at Bethany UMC March 9. The GAEC Board found out at our March meeting that we needed to move the location of our Walks. I contacted the DEEWC about their experiences at the Eagles Wings Retreat Center (EWRC) in Burnet which were favorable. The Board visited and signed a contract with EWRC to hold our Men's Walk #145 on May 2-5, 2019 (the same weekend that DEEWC had reserved but cancelled). GAEC and DEEWC both have pilgrims on Men's Walk #145.

Looking ahead, GAEC and DEEWC have agreed to have another joint Gathering on July 13, 2019 at Round Rock Presbyterian Church. We're having a joint Women's Walk September 26-29, 2019 with DEEWC at the EWRC. We're staffing the Conference Room Team, the Servant Team, and the pilgrims from both GAEC and DEEWC. The Lay Director (Nelda Carpenter), Spiritual Director (Karen Stocks), and Board Representative (Paulette Widmer) are from the DEEWC because they had already committed to serve on that Walk on that weekend date at EWRC for DEEWC. GAEC's next Lay Director moved out of Austin and Dot Files had agreed to step in to help as Lay Director. GAEC did not have a location or weekend date since we changed facilities and it seemed like a logical time to consider merging with DEEWC for the fall Women's Walk. Since we are doing a joint Women's weekend, Nelda is the Lay Director and Dot is not needed to fill-in anymore. Thank you to Dot for her servant heart and graciousness! We had a joint team selection meeting by both communities on April 22. Nelda is contacting possible team members that were selected for consideration. Both GAEC and DEEWC are very excited about the spirit of cooperation between the two communities in having joint Gatherings and joint teams to try to move us to the point of merging.

I started with the scripture Colossians 1: 9-14 which discusses praying for each other. We need to pray for Men's Walk #145 this next week, for the Joint Gathering July 13, and for the Joint Women's Walk September 26-29 that are being supported by both Greater Austin Emmaus Community and Diakonia Emmaus Eagles Wings Community. We need to pray for merging the two Emmaus communities as well. WE can be stronger in numbers by merging our two Emmaus Communities in order that WE may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way by bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that WE may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father.

DeColores!
Steven Scott
GAEC Board Member for Gathering Support





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
4th Day Speaker: Michelle Parker

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 April 4, 2019, Northwest Hills UMC

The Board of Directors met April 4, 2019 at Northwest Hills UMC. Present were: LeeLeen Sundbeck, Acting Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative; Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coordinator; and Jeanne Randall, Walk Support Coordinator. Arnie Waden, Lay Director of Men's Walk #145 (*non-voting*) and Dot Files, Lay Director of Women's Walk #146 (*non-voting*) also attended.
QUORUM: Six Board members were present.

MINUTES – The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on March 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 Bizzell had sent out the financial report by email. The Frost Bank balance reconciles with the Aplos balance of \$26,588.21. Patti made a motion to have the financial report approved. Jeanne Randall seconded the motion and all approved.

UPPER ROOM REPORT – Mel Chambers reported the Upper Room received our signed Covenant and a copy of our insurance. The Contract with Eagles Wings Retreat Center has been signed and copies of the Contract will be uploaded to Dropbox along with a copy of our insurance policy.

GATHERING SUPPORT – Steven Scott reported that the Eagles Wings community is interested in merging with us. They are also interested in having a shared Women's Walk on September 26-29 at the Eagles Wings Retreat Center. They have a Lay Director, Spiritual Director, and Board Rep., but we will combine team members from both communities. Steven made a motion to have a joint meeting with the Eagles Wings community for team selection for the Women's Walk in September. Jeanne Randall seconded, and all approved. Steven will meet with Eagles Wings to set a meeting for the team selection for Monday, April 22, 2019.

Our next Gathering will be May 18th at Pflugerville UMC. The Eagles Wings May Gathering will be held in a facility that isn't large enough for both communities to meet together. Therefore, we will have a combined Gathering with Eagles Wings on July 13th at Round Rock Presbyterian Church. The Gathering in Cedar Creek is tentatively set for September 7.

WALK SUPPORT – The Agape and Prayer Vigil sign-ups are on-line and need to be filled. Jeanne will send an e-mail blast to the community in an on-going effort to get all slots filled.

WALK #145 REPORT – Arnie reported there are 20 pilgrims in the Registrar with several other potential pilgrims. Patti reported she had funds for 19 pilgrims. Pastor Chase will be available for Sponsor's Hour and the Candlelight service.

OLD BUSINESS - LeeLeen will send a copy of the Servant Team application she worked up to Myles and the BOD.

NEW BUSINESS – Patti made a motion to request funds to purchase 3 room dividers for use at Eagles Wings Retreat Center. Mel seconded the motion and all approved.

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

We will ask Patti Breaux to serve on the Financial Review committee.

Arnie Walden closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.



GATHERINGS FOR 2019

Saturday, May 18, 2019

First UMC Pflugerville

500 East Pecan Street, Pflugerville, 78660

Men's Walk #145 Welcome Back upstairs in the Attic in the Family Life Center at 4:00

Potluck Dinner in the Family Life Center at 5:30

Music and Worship in the Sanctuary at 6:30

4th Day Speaker: Michelle Parker

Saturday, July 13, 2019

Joint GAEC & Diakonia Emmaus Eagles Wings

Community Gathering

Round Rock Presbyterian Church

4010 Sam Bass RD, Round Rock, 78681

Agape Making Party at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:00

Music and Worship at 6:00

4th Day Speaker TBD

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Cedar Creek UMC

5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612

The Joy of Sponsoring a Pilgrim Training at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:30

Music and Worship at 6:30

with Commissioning of Joint Women's Walk #146 Team

4th Day Speaker TBD

2019 Emmaus Community Gatherings

Training Workshops at 4:00 PM

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 PM

Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

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: Michelle Parker

Saturday, July 13, 2019

Joint GAEC & Diakonia Emmaus Eagles Wings
Community Gathering

Round Rock Presbyterian Church

4010 Sam Bass Road, Round Rock, 78681

Agape Making Party at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:00

Music and Worship at 6:00

4th Day Speaker TBD

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Cedar Creek UMC

5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612

The Joy of Sponsoring a Pilgrim Training at 4:00

Potluck Dinner at 5:30

Music and Worship at 6:30 with

Commissioning of Joint Women's Walk #146 Team

4th Day Speaker TBD



Don't forget to bring a dish or other goodies to share
for the potluck before each Gathering! Yum!



Emmaus Gathering



**IS THIS THE EMMAUS
GATHERING?**