



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



October 2019

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 30, Number 10

Priorities??

Remember the first talk you heard on the first day of your Walk? To refresh, it was “Priorities.”

Do you remember, or think about, what you heard during that talk? What were your priorities then, and how have they changed over the years? The speaker talked about how we have the power to exercise some control over our lives. Sometimes it takes us a while to figure these things out, but still we do have the ability to decide. And this is our greatest power, and we owe it to ourselves to use this power consciously and wisely. And how do we do this? Well, by bringing together all our human ability with our imagination, our intelligence, and our will to set us free.

Did you put a plan of action in place and follow through on your plan? Do you remember what makes something a priority? A priority is something of importance to YOU. It's what you live for; what gives focus to your life.

Lately I've been reflecting on my observations at our Gatherings, seeing friends from other churches getting together in fellowship to share a meal, visiting and catching up on what's been going on in their lives, and then worshipping together. It is truly a spiritually rejuvenating experience to share this time together.

However, I have also noticed that the crowd tends to be heavily attended by those from the host church with a scattering of our faithful attendees from the other churches represented in our community. This brings me back to priorities. Our crosses are inscribed with “Christ is Counting on You,” but have you made our Emmaus Community a priority? Based on the number of members registered in our community and observing the size of the crowd at our Gatherings, I would have to say that Emmaus is not a priority. I understand that we all have busy lives, and that is why we started having our Gatherings every two months and on Saturday evening, starting early with a potluck followed by the service so we can be finished around 8:00 p.m.

I would like to ask each one of you to think back about your priorities and what is important to you and try to find time to make Emmaus a priority in your life.

Also, this brings me to thoughts of the “Changing Our World” talk. How do we make changes? Where do we start? Well, we start with ourselves. If we do not make changes now, then when? As I said, those attending our Gatherings are dwindling. We are also having a hard time attracting sponsors to ask pilgrims to attend our Walks; of those Walks that make only a few have been full Walks.

We are also looking for people willing to serve on the Board. The Board is an extension of the Community as a whole, and we cannot carry on without the support of our Emmaus community. If any of you have suggestions, solutions, or want to make Emmaus a priority, please reach out to one of our Board members, as we are here and willing to help you get started.

Emmaus has been a big part of my life because I made it a priority in my life. My life has been enriched by this experience, and I want all of you to feel the same way. After all, Emmaus has done so much good and changed so many lives, and I feel it can still maintain and build leaders in our churches, communities, and world.

DeColores!
LeeLeen Sundbeck
Lay Director



Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

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Spiritual Director

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SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org

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WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org



Financial Statement as of 9/11/19



Bank Balance
\$24,624.32

Scholarship Balance
\$455.00

Please consider making a contribution to the Scholarship Fund so that those in need can experience their Walk to Emmaus. Scholarship Forms are available by request and can be found on the GAEC website.

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 at Covenant UMC on November 16th for the
November Gathering. Agape Making Party at 4:00,
Potluck Dinner at 5:30, Music and Worship at 6:30.
Childcare available with advance notice to

ssarch@verizon.net

Greater Austin Emmaus Community 2020 Walks

February 20-23, 2020 Men's Walk
Lay Director TBD
Spiritual Director TBD

November 5-8, 2020 Women's Walk
Debby Duplantis, Lay Director
Spiritual Director TBD



Please be in prayer for who you think is ready to take their Walk to Emmaus, and offer to be their sponsor! See the box to your right for a nutshell overview. Go to <http://www.austinemmaus.org> and click on 'Downloads' for the pilgrim and sponsor applications. Be sure you also download the 'Sponsor Packet' for a more detailed list of sponsor responsibilities.

Sponsorship is Important!

Seek prayerful guidance before asking applicant to attend
Answer all questions and concerns honestly
Help resolve any problems that might prevent attendance
Bring your pilgrim to the center on time on Thursday evening
Participate in the Sponsor's hour
Obtain personal agape letters from friends and family
Assist your pilgrim's family during his/her absence
Attend Candlelight and Closing services
Drive or ride home with your pilgrim after the weekend
Take your pilgrim to the first Gathering after the weekend

Become A Sponsor!

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
- ⇒ 4th Day experiences
- ⇒ GAEC service opportunities/needs
- ⇒ Walk info
- ⇒ Team info
- ⇒ Gathering info
- ⇒ anything else you think the community needs to know, would be helpful to know, or would enjoy reading. Send your news to:



WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

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



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!



Next GAEC Board Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 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!



Next Gathering!

Saturday, November 16, 2019
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road, Austin, 78727
Agape Making Party at 4:00
Potluck Dinner at 5:30
Music and Worship at 6:30
4th Day Speaker TBD



GAEC Facebook page!

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



Welcome New Pilgrims!
Women's Walk EW 142
September 26 – 29, 2019
Eagle's Wings Retreat Center

Anita Bardowell
Anna Ahart
Becky Barton
Brenda Milligan
Carol Barg
Catherine Johnson
Cindy Dollar
Cricket Howard
Danielle Reyes
Debby Farr
Julie Carter
Kathy Boccieri
Kay Trostle
Kristin Stephens
Lauren Soule
Laurie Howell
Louise Morse
Mary McNeill Smith
Neaen Hughes
Phyllis Gorman
Renée Hirschmiller
Renelle Kant
Ruth Copeland
Sherry Michalenko



Have you been asked to give a Fourth Day Talk at a Gathering? Here are some general guidelines that will be helpful.

General Guidelines for the Fourth Day Talk

- ✚ The talk is to be a personal sharing and testimony about your walk with Christ in the Fourth Days since you attended your Walk.
- ✚ Limit the talk to no more than *10-15 minutes*. Please adhere to this!
- ✚ Do not go into your entire life story or Christian history. This will use up valuable time for sharing your Fourth Day experience and message.
- ✚ Do not spend time talking about your Walk or other than a brief mention if it is truly relevant to your message. Do not go into detail about the Walk, as there are often visitors or guests present who have not attended a Walk.
- ✚ Please do not “speak in code” about Emmaus events, as this leaves visitors feeling that they missed something, are purposefully being excluded, or that there is a “secret” they are not a part of.
- ✚ Remember, this is to be about YOUR walk with Christ in your Fourth Days. Tell YOUR story, everyone wants to hear it!
- ✚ Please do not use this time for personal agenda items.
- ✚ Remember to begin by reciting the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, and end with saying DeColores.

**May God bless
and inspire your words!**

Fourth Day Speakers Needed!

If you would like to give a Fourth Day talk at a Gathering, please contact Steven Scott at ssarch@verizon.net. We will all be blessed by your sharing!



Fourth Days

Do you have 4th Day experiences you would like to share in the *WalkTalk*? 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!





Greater Austin Emmaus Community

GAEC Community Gathering November 16 , 2019

Covenant UMC

4410 Duval Road

Austin, TX 78727

4:00pm – Agape Making Party

5:30pm – Potluck Dinner in the Sanctuary

6:30pm – Music and Worship in the Sanctuary

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

4TH Day Please Bring First Letter of Last Name: A – E: Desserts

F – K: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

L – Z: Main Dishes

Childcare is available for ages 5 and under with
reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, September 11th.

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567 or

ssarch@verizon.net

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes September 5, 2019 at Northwest Hills UMC

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 p.m. by Lay Director LeeLeen Sundbeck, who opened the meeting with a prayer and presided over the meeting. The following directors were present: LeeLeen Sundbeck, Acting Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative; Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coordinator; Jeanne Randall, Walk Support Coordinator, and Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr, Spiritual Director.
QUORUM: Seven Board members were present.

MINUTES: The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on August 1, 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 \$24,409.32. Steven Scott made a motion to approve the submitted financial report; Harold Sundbeck seconded the motion. All approved.

Patti brought a PC computer that a friend of hers isn't using and Mel offered to check it out to see if it will meet our needs as a designated GAEC computer. If it will work for us they would like to be reimbursed \$567.00 for the PC and they will donate the keyboard and mouse.

Patti reported that we have 17 and possibly 19 pilgrims for EW Walk 142.

UPPER ROOM REPORT – Mel brought a copy of the Lay Director's manual for Steven.

Mel reported he has not been able to find a candidate to be the Lay Director for the Men's Walk in 2020. Debby Duplantis will serve as the Lay Director for the Women's Walk.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR – Pastor Chase brought up for discussion as to how we can get the churches more involved in Emmaus. We have a spiritual problem and disconnect within the congregations of our churches in the Conference. The problem is we're not getting support from the Bishop or the District Superintendent. We need to increase the spirituality in our Emmaus community. LeeLeen will again send out a letter to the area pastors asking for their support for Emmaus.

WALK SUPPORT – Jeanne reported the trailer is organized and ready for the next Walk. There are still a lot of open slots on the agape sign-up sheets.

GATHERING SUPPORT – The next Gathering will be September 14th at Cedar Creek UMC. Steven will lead the service and will also offer training on the Joy of Sponsorship. Sue Kratochvil will be the 4th day speaker and Louise Ridlin will lead the music. Steven is finalizing buying walkie-talkies for Women's Walk EW 142.

The November Gathering will be at Covenant UMC on November 16th.

NEW BUSINESS – We will meet at 6:00 p.m. October 10th at Northwest Hills UMC to continue our discussion of the 3-day schedule.

OLD BUSINESS – Harold will see about getting the trailer serviced on Monday.

LeeLeen brought up discussion about articles for the *WalkTalk*. She will write the Lay Director article about Priorities as it relates to our Emmaus community.

Pastor Chase closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.

**Meeting
Minutes**

2019 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

Training Workshops at 4:00 PM

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 PM

Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Covenant UMC

4410 Duval Road, Austin, 78727

4:00 Agape Making Party

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD

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



Reminder to sponsors: One of the responsibilities of being a sponsor is to bring your pilgrim to their first Gathering after their Walk. This is an important step in helping them get plugged into the community.

