



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



May 2020

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 31, Number 5

CONNECTED

I pray that you and your family are safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this time of being home bound for many of us and worrying about those who have to work in the public, we may feel isolated from our normal lives. We cannot go to church, or to Sunday school, or our Emmaus reunion group, or even to an Emmaus Gathering. We may feel that we are even isolated from God. We may be with our family, but we feel alone and helpless with all that is going on.

All things happen for a reason in God's time! It is not a coincidence that we are now able to communicate with the Austin area fourth day community by MailChimp to 3,105 people versus 483 by Yahoo Groups. It is a Godincidence! God knew we would need to communicate better with each other to reinforce each other. Listen to some of the comments we have received from fourth day members to the new MailChimp communication platform we are using:

- ✝ Bless You! and thank you for finding a way to expand our internal newsletter!
- ✝ I would love to hear about Emmaus members and what they are doing or have received from the Emmaus Community who are using their Hands and their Feet to do the work of the Church.
- ✝ Thank you. This is wonderful. I haven't gotten anything from Emmaus for a while so it's good to be back in the loop.
- ✝ It is a joy to receive Emmaus news in this new way! So glad to see improvements being made in the way we connect!
- ✝ So glad to see Emmaus continuing to reach out during this chaotic time in our world.
- ✝ I was so glad to see this new email format in my inbox today! It is a blessing to still be able to hear from you even when we cannot be together!

Jesus told us: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:5-7

We can stay CONNECTED with each other, our Sunday school classes, and our reunion groups by phone, text, online software programs such as GoToMeeting, WebEx, and Google Meets, and by reading your MailChimp emails. We can stay CONNECTED to our church family by online streaming from our church websites. We can stay CONNECTED to God by reading Christian books, devotionals, and our bibles. Yes, dust off that bible and read it! Yes, God has messages for us during this pandemic such as James 4:8: "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

The cleanse your hands part has even more meaning during this COVID-19 pandemic!

Also, look at Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Finally, remember this message from God to stay CONNECTED from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17: "Be joyful always, pray without ceasing." With the hope of Jesus, we continue to step forward one day at a time. Thank you for all you are doing to keep hope alive! Stay CONNECTED to each other, your church, and God. Continued blessings on you and all those around you.

De Colores!
Steven Scott
Acting Lay Director



Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Non-Board Positions

Acting Lay Director

Steven Scott

LayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Lay Director

Dennis Perryman

AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Past Lay Director

Fred Widmer

PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Secretary

Harold Sundbeck

Secretary@austinemmaus.org

Treasurer

Patti Bizzell

Treasurer@austinemmaus.org

Upper Room Support

Mel Chambers

UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org

Assist Upper Room Support

George Scherer

AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org

Communications Support

Lauren Moffatt

Communications@austinemmaus.org

Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)

Jeanne Randall

WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Walk Support (Agape)

Jo Peters

Agape@austinemmaus.org

Gathering Support

Chuck Tencer

Gathering@austinemmaus.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester Chase

SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org

Team Selection Support

Susan McMillan

TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org

Reunion Group/POC Support

Rom Johnson

ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org

Training Support

Nelda Carpenter

Training@austinemmaus.org

Database/Website Support

Rick Seifert

DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org

Non-Board Positions

Music Coordinator

Mike Carmagnola

Music@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Music Coordinator

Jesse Maddera

AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org

Registrar

Myles McKemie

Registrar@austinemmaus.org

Website Developer

Eric Bursley

WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org

WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org



BOARD MEMBERS



Financial Statement

as of 4/21/20

Bank Balance

\$15,583.86

Scholarship Fund

\$1,507.50

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!



June Gathering!

Join us at Round Rock Presbyterian Church on June 6th for the June Gathering. Agape Making Party at 4:00, Potluck Dinner at 5:30, Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship at 6:30.

For childcare, Contact Chuck Tencer at Gathering@austinemmaus.org

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

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

Greater Austin Emmaus Community 2020 Walks

NOTE: Because of the Coronavirus, we have moved Women's Walk #147 from May 14 – 17 to July 30 – August 2.

Women's Walk #147

Deena Raynor, Lay Director
Nancy Mossman, Spiritual Director
Lynn Magee, Board Rep.
Steven Scott, Servant Team Coor.

July 30 – August 2, 2020

Contact: Deena@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Lynn@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Steven@austinemmaus.org

Women's Walk #148

Debby Duplantis, Lay Director
Spiritual Director TBD
Diane Merwarth, Board Rep.
Bob Duplantis, Servant Team Coor.

November 5 – 8, 2020

Contact: Debby@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Diane@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Bob@austinemmaus.org

Both of these Walks will be held at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center in Burnet.
The fee is \$210.00 each.



GAEC Board Director Officer Roles

<u>OFFICER ROLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Lay Director	Steven Scott	2021
Assistant Lay Director	Dennis Perryman	2021
Past Lay Director	Fred Widmer	2021
Secretary	Harold Sundbeck	2022
Treasurer	Patti Bizzell	2023
Upper Room Support	Mel Chambers	2022
Assist Upper Room Support	George Scherer	2021
Communications Support	Lauren Moffatt	2023
Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)	Jeanne Randall	2022
Assistant Walk Support (Agape)	Jo Peters	2021
Gathering Support	Chuck Tencer	2023
Spiritual Director	Rev. Sylvester Chase	2021
Team Selection Support	Susan McMillan	2021
Reunion Group/POC Support	Rom Johnson	2023
Training Support	Nelda Carpenter	2022
Database/Website Support	Rick Seifert	2023



Term Expiration 2021-4, 2022-4, 2023-5.

Top three Directors expire every year.

NOTE: Officer roles and terms to be voted on at the June 6th Annual Meeting.

Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, May 2, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

The above Board meeting will be online.

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**Regular Board meetings will resume as scheduled below at their normal time of 3:00.**

June 6 at Round Rock Presbyterian Church Gathering  
July 11 at Cedar Creek UMC Gathering  
August 15 at Bethany UMC (*tentative*)  
September 12 at Lake Travis UMC Gathering  
November 21 at Hope Presbyterian Church Gathering



## Greater Austin Emmaus Reunion Groups

Looking for a reunion group?  
Want to add a new group?  
Need to update info on an existing group?

Go to the link below to do all of this!

[http://austinemmaus.org/reunion\\_groups.php](http://austinemmaus.org/reunion_groups.php)



## Emmaus Scholarship Fund

Please consider making a contribution to the Scholarship Fund so that those in need can experience their Walk to Emmaus. If your pilgrim is in need of a partial or full scholarship, please check with your church, Sunday school class, or reunion group first. If you still need a partial or full scholarship, scholarship forms are available by request and can be found on the GAEC website at the link below.

<http://austinemmaus.org/reg.php>



## Next Gathering!

**Saturday, June 6, 2020**

Round Rock Presbyterian Church  
4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock, 78681  
Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.

*(see notice below)*

Potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship at 6:30 p.m.  
4th Day Speaker TBD



## NOTICE

Please bring your own agape supplies to work on together at agape making parties before each Gathering. Supplies will not be furnished by the GAEC.

## GAEC Facebook page!

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





*Greater Austin Emmaus Community*

## **GAEC GATHERING**

### **Saturday June 6, 2020**

Round Rock Presbyterian Church

4010 Sam Bass Road

Round Rock, TX 78681

4:00 – Agape Making Party

*(Bring your own agape supplies)*

5:30 – Potluck Dinner

6:30 – Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship

4th Day Speaker TBD

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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

Last Name: A – G: Main Dishes

H – K: Desserts

L – Z: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

Child care is available for ages 5 and under with  
reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please contact Chuck Tencer at

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



## One of My Fourth Day Experiences Also Known as a Closest to Christ Moment

Many of you know that my son Steven died last September. He was raised in the Christian faith, but he married Heather who does not believe there is a God. So, his life with her for almost 22 years did not include religion or spiritual thoughts or practices (at least not spoken). It was difficult for me, but I was mindful that they had a wonderful marriage and he was supportive of her scientific beliefs.

I spent much of the last two months of his life with him as he dealt with the cancer that was consuming his body. We talked about a lot of things, including where he would go next. He told me that he would be waiting for me at the Welcoming Center when it was my turn. That was a hopeful concept for me that he did still believe! As we neared the end of his journey, he kept telling me to "Find JOY in every day, Mom."

One of my very favorite Bible verses is James 1:2 which states, "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing."

I was standing in my garden a couple of weeks ago, trying to determine where I might place his memorial stone that is going to say, "Find JOY in every day." Suddenly, I remembered again that he DID still believe and that his connection with God was providing guidance for him and giving instruction for me. I felt such a sense of closeness to Christ that Steve's and my faith WAS being tested AND it provided the tools we both needed to endure.

Now WITH that endurance, I can feel the full effect of Christ's love as I continue my spiritual journey.

**De Colores!**  
**Patti Bizzell**  
**GAEC Treasurer**

Find  
joy Everyday

## Fourth Day Experiences

Do you have 4th Day experiences you would like to share with the community? Perhaps a reflection on your spiritual journey since your Walk? Or maybe 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!

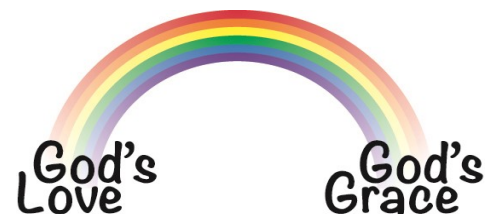


## Clergy Corner

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!



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## GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes April 4, 2020

*The April Board Meeting was held by Zoom due to the current shelter-in-place directives to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Steven Scott as Acting Lay Director called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and opened the meeting with a devotional and a prayer. The following directors were present: Acting Lay Director, Steven Scott; Past Lay Director, Fred Widmer; Secretary, Harold Sundbeck; Treasurer, Patti Bizzell; Upper Room Representative, Mel Chambers; Assistant Upper Room Representative, George Scherer; Communications, Lauren Moffatt; Gathering Support, Chuck Tencer; Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer), Jeanne Randall; Assistant Walk Support (Agape), Jo Peters; Training, Nelda Carpenter; Database/Website, Rick Seifert; and Team Selection, Susan McMillian. **QUORUM:** Thirteen Board members were present, providing a quorum for the meeting.

**MINUTES:** The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on March 7, 2020 and were approved by email.

**GAEC BOARD DIRECTOR OFFICER ROLES:** Steven presented a list of the GAEC Board of Directors with their positions and term dates.

**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 reported the Frost Bank balance reconciles with the Aplos balance of \$16,132.95. Patti made the motion to accept the financial report; Mel Chambers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** – Mel Chambers reported he has the new Upper Room Covenant to be signed. He will send out by e-mail to be e-signed using Adobe. Mel also reported we have a trainer available for Clergy Training when needed. Mel will send on-line info to Nelda to attend on-line training to be a trainer for Walks.

**COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT** – Lauren Moffatt reported that all e-mails from the database have been added to MailChimp for our future email distribution to the community. Our distribution list is now approximately 3,100 addresses.

**WALK SUPPORT** – Jeanne Randall reported she will be sending out links to end the sign-ups for the Agape and Prayer Vigils for Women's Walk #147 since it has been re-scheduled.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – The May Gathering is canceled due to the on-going shelter-in-place restrictions; however, we hope to hold a Gathering in June. The tentative Gathering will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> at Round Rock Presbyterian Church. A final decision will be made at our May Board meeting.

**TRAINING** – Steven asked the Board members to offer suggestions for a couple of the community members to serve as volunteers on the Team Selection committee.

**DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT** – Verve and Go Daddy hosting sites have been paid. Rick will head a sub-committee to work on updating the website. Lauren Moffatt, Steven Scott, Fred Widmer, and Eric Bursley will also serve on the committee.

**WALK #147 LAY DIRECTOR REPORT** – The May 14-17 dates have been re-scheduled to July 30 – August 2, 2020.

**WALK #148 LAY DIRECTOR REPORT** – A date for Team selection will be set at our May meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Board meeting dates are set through November. Our next meeting date will be May 2, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We also need to make a couple of changes to our By-Laws that will be addressed at our May Board meeting. Steven will finish up the update on the job descriptions.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Rick to finalize Eagles Wings reconciliation of the bank account and work on dissolving the Eagles Wings community.

**WALKTALK ARTICLES** – Steven will write the Lay Director report for the *WalkTalk*. Jeanne Randall will submit an article about Agape for the June *WalkTalk*.

Rick Seifert closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

*Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.*

**Meeting  
Minutes**

## 2020 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

Training Workshops at 4:00 PM

Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM

Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

**NOTE: We have moved the May Gathering to June 6 due to the Coronavirus. Please mark this change on your calendars.**

### June 6, 2020

Round Rock Presbyterian Church  
4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock, 78681

Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.

*(Please bring your own agape supplies.)*

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Music, and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD

### July 11, 2020

Cedar Creek UMC

5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612

Agape Making Party at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Walk #147 Team Commissioning

4th Day Speaker TBD

### August 15, 2020

Welcome Back for Women's Walk #147, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Location TBD

### September 12, 2020

Lake Travis UMC

1502 Ranch Rd 620 N, Lakeway, 78734

Sponsoring Training at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Walk #148 Team Commissioning

4th Day Speaker TBD

### November 21, 2020

Hope Presbyterian Church

11512 Olson Drive, Austin, 78750

Welcome Back for Women's Walk #148 at 4:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD



### Fourth Day Speakers Needed!

Would you like to give a Fourth Day talk at a Gathering? Fourth Day speakers are always needed! Please contact Chuck Tencer at [Gathering@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Gathering@austinemmaus.org) if you are interested. We will all be blessed by your sharing!

