



## The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



June 2020

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 31, Number 6

### PERSEVERE

I pray that you and your family are safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this once in a lifetime situation of being home bound for many of us because of this, businesses being closed, and so many people being laid off from work, we may feel isolated from our normal lives. I was working on my Sunday School lesson for our online Sunday School class to stay connected and I realized that it would be a great topic for the *WalkTalk*.

What do we do when there's nothing we can do to change the situation? Do we avoid the situation, do we try to ignore it, or do we say why is this happening to me? James, the brother of Jesus, was leading the Christian Jews in Jerusalem and they were in a difficult situation. James wrote to the community he was responsible for in James 1:2 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." My first feeling about having JOY in trials when I was a baby Christian was "How is that possible? Joy would be the last thing I would think of in a trial situation!" I prayed to God about the trial and asked him to help me through it. I survived the trial and life went back to normal.

Then as life goes on, I had another big trial in my life. I don't know about you, but in fact trials usually come in groups of three for me. That makes it more overwhelming and more uncertain for the future. Andy Stanley states in his lesson on "How to Persevere in Tough Times," that trials expose the authenticity of our confidence in God or lack of authenticity. When circumstances deteriorate, artificial, counterfeit, and what is in it for me faith deteriorates with it. Faith is confidence that God has already done something. God is who he said he is, He will do everything he has promised! Andy says that through trials you discover something about yourself and God. In James 1:4, it says, "Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." By facing the trial, we experience God's faithfulness in the trial. With all the trials that kept happening to me over a year and a half, I started to get bitter about the world. Why did everything happen to me? I was thinking only about myself and what was happening to me and my wife. But then, I reminded myself that I needed to pray more. Now that I was a youth in my Christian faith, I was dealing with the big trials by praying more. Then my wife put up on our mirror in our bathroom two scriptures that I read every day: Romans 12:12 "Rejoice in our confident hope, be patient in trouble and keep praying," and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." These scriptures, like James 1:2, wanted me to have JOY, be patient, and be thankful in all circumstances. I kept praying and telling myself to have JOY, be patient, and be thankful in all circumstances. Soon by reading God's word and experiencing God's love, I moved my attitude from me to God! I was trusting God to teach me what I needed to learn.

The last verse to study is James 1:12 "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." My wife and I kept the faith and believed that God would get us through the trials. I learned that I did not have much control of my life, but God had plans for me. He loved me and wanted the best for me. He carried us through two years of trials with help he provided through friends giving us and loaning us money. Somehow, we survived and through that survival my TRUST in the Lord had matured to the adult level of my Christian faith! I now live my life each day as God wants for me. I prayed to God that I wanted what he wanted for my life. I would work where he wanted me to work, live where he wanted me to live, drive what he wanted me to drive, and to send me the people he wanted me to help. His plan for my life is what I wanted.

I had stepped out in faith and trusted God for two years and he took me through it. I learned that I did not have to fear the unknown or be in control anymore. I know that whatever happens, God is with me. The trials are temporary, but God is permanent, and I can grab onto him to get me through the trials. I now realized what the pure JOY means in our trials. It means that we know God is working in us and loving us to TRUST him more in our lives. We don't choose trials, trials choose us. However, we choose our response to the trials. Remember in this time of COVID-19 to say this prayer: "God, use this COVID-19 trial in us until you choose to remove this trial and God give me confidence to TRUST you in the trial while I have JOY in the process to PERSEVERE."

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](mailto:LayDirector@austinemmaus.org)

### Assistant Lay Director

Dennis Perryman

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

### Past Lay Director

Fred Widmer

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

### Secretary

Harold Sundbeck

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

### Treasurer

Patti Bizzell

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

### Upper Room Support

Mel Chambers

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

### Assist Upper Room Support

George Scherer

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

### Communications Support

Lauren Moffatt

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

### Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)

Jeanne Randall

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

### Assistant Walk Support (Agape)

Jo Peters

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

### Gathering Support

Chuck Tencer

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

### Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester Chase

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

### Team Selection Support

Susan McMillan

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

### Reunion Group/POC Support

Christian Nelson

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

### Training Support

Nelda Carpenter

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

### Database/Website Support

Rick Seifert

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

## Non-Board Positions

### Music Coordinator

Mike Carmagnola

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

### Assistant Music Coordinator

Jesse Maddera

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

### Registrar

Myles McKemie

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

### Website Developer

Eric Bursley

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

### WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

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



## BOARD MEMBERS



## *Financial Statement as of 5/20/20*

### Bank Balance

**\$15,529.11**

### 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!



## September Gathering! September 12, 2020

Lake Travis UMC  
Sponsoring Training at 4:00 p.m.  
Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

For childcare, Contact Chuck Tencer at  
[Gathering@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Gathering@austinemmaus.org)

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

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



### 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	Christian Nelson	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.**

## Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, June 6, 2020, 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday, July 11, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

**The above Board meetings will be online.**

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

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?  
Send information to the Reunion Group/POC Support  
person at [ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org](mailto:ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org).



## 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!

**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.  
4th Day Speaker TBD



**Emmaus Gathering**

## GAEC Facebook page!

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





## The Church Has Left the Building

My name is Rick Seifert and I recently joined the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) through the merger of our Diakonia Eagles Wings community with GAEC. I am a member of Round Rock Presbyterian Church (RRPC) and several years ago, in order to support desire to do more for our community, we designed tee shirts with the slogan: “The Church Has Left The Building.” These shirts helped motivate us as a congregation to get out of the building and into the community to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

We all know the church is more than the building in which we meet – as scripture tells us, it is the people that make up the church:

*As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NIV)

Now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church truly has left the building and we truly miss it! It is not so much the building, but the personal interaction and the corporate worship we experience together. BUT, we have found that we can still find joy on Sunday mornings through our virtual worship experience supported by amazing technology that has emerged and an internet that remains intact. God is good!

Many of you may be waiting to go back to church until you are able to meet face to face. You may be less tech-savvy than others and worried about successfully joining online worship, or perhaps you are afraid that the experience will not be the same and won’t fulfill the hole left when your church building had to shut its doors. But as churches have learned more about the technology, the worship experience has improved, and for our family, it is fulfilling our call to corporate worship. At RRPC, we started with a Zoom-based congregational gathering with a pre-recorded sermon and hymn book references. Now we have added a live sermon and amazing music from members of the congregation who record in the safety of their homes and whose voices are integrated with technology to form a virtual choir and praise team.

And RRPC is not alone – churches across our community and around the nation are doing the same. In fact, we now have regular attendees from New York, Oregon, and California!

The place to start, though, is with your home church – it is there where you can be most comfortable with the church family you know and love. For those who don’t have a church home, or perhaps a church that struggles with technology, I have included a short list of churches from our community that you might try out:

Round Rock Presbyterian Church: <https://roundrockpresbyterian.org/>

Latest worship service: <https://roundrockpresbyterian.org/connect/>

Bethany UMC: <https://bethany-umc.org/>

Latest worship service: <https://www.facebook.com/bethanyumc/videos/>

Cedar Creek UMC: <https://www.cedarcreekumc.org/>

Latest worship service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFhpAFDU7qQ>

Grace Presbyterian Church Round Rock: <http://www.gracepresrr.org/wp/>

Latest worship service: <http://www.gracepresrr.org/wp/?sermons=graduate-sunday-2020-may-24-2020>

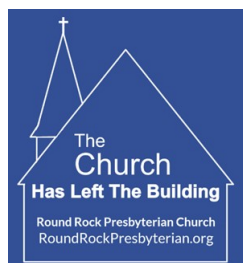
Northwest Hills UMC: <https://nwhillsumc.org/>

Latest worship service: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4wTz5bSWwsrGtaPvPho\\_Vg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4wTz5bSWwsrGtaPvPho_Vg)

Hope Presbyterian Church: <https://hopeaustin.org/>

Latest worship service: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCooltgRUPREO59af13KXzEg/>

**De Colores!**  
**Rick Seifert**



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## GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes May 2, 2020

The May 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: Steven Scott, Acting Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Lauren Moffatt, Communications Support; Chuck Tencer, Gathering Support; Jeanne Randall, Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer); Jo Peters, Assistant Walk Support (Agape); and Rick Seifert, Database/Website Support.

**QUORUM:** Eight 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 April 4, 2020 and 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:

**ACTING LAY DIRECTOR** – Steven reported that not all of the Board members have finished reviewing the Board Job Descriptions. Steven asked for any suggestions from the Board to help finalize the Job Descriptions so we can be finished and vote for approval. Once the Job Descriptions are finalized, we will begin work on the revisions to the By-Laws.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Patti reported the Frost Bank balance reconciles with the Aplos balance of \$15,583.86. Patti made the motion to accept the financial report, the motion was seconded by Rick Seifert. The motion passed.

Rick reported the Eagles Wings checking account is balanced. Rick also reported that Bill O'Brian sent a request to the State Comptroller's office for the Franchise Tax Certificate in mid-April. Once the certificate is returned, he will send to Steven.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** – Mel Chambers was not present, and Steven is waiting to receive the Upper Room Covenant to be signed by the Board. Steven will follow up with Mel on the Covenant, and also on the clergy training.

**COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT** – Steven and Lauren have updated the website and GoDaddy email list. A test email was sent out but not everyone has responded. Patti suggested providing Lauren with the GAEC computer to help with work on the website. Steven will ask Mel to help getting the computer to Lauren. The May *WalkTalk* was sent out this morning, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – The Board voted to cancel the June Gathering at Round Rock Presbyterian Church.

**TEAM SELECTION** – Steven asked the Board members to offer suggestions for a couple of community members to serve as volunteers on the Team Selection committee. Steven asked the Board to have suggestions for prospective community members ready by the June Board Meeting.

**TRAINING** – Nelda contacted Steven and reported she plans to schedule and attend an on-line training session.

**DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT** – Rick reported the Website Improvement Subcommittee met this morning. They plan on updating the existing Eagles Wings site since it is WordPress and the current GAEC site requires coding. We will begin the update and redirect the GAEC website address when the update is complete.

**WALK #147 LD REPORT** – The Board may need to cancel this Walk due to the on-going COVID-19 issues.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Our next meeting date will be June 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Steven will write the Lay Director report for the *WalkTalk*. Rick and Jeanne will submit articles for the *WalkTalk*.

*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

### 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.

4th Day Speaker TBD

### November 21, 2020

Hope Presbyterian Church

11512 Olson Drive, Austin, 78750

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD



### July Gathering Cancelled

The Board voted to cancel the July 11<sup>th</sup> Gathering at Cedar Creek UMC due to continuing COVID-19 concerns. The next Gathering is September 12<sup>th</sup> at Lake Travis UMC. See above for further info.

### 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!

