



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



July 2020

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 31, Number 7

TESTIMONY

I pray that you and your family are safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. I know after four months of daily bombardment a lot of people are tired of hearing about COVID. Therefore, we are going to talk about something more upbeat! The Board has established a subcommittee titled Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) Website Improvement Sub-Committee or the much shorter form of GWISC. GWISC is updating our website and hope to roll it out in September. Yea!! We are making the website look more attractive with photos/graphics, making it easier to use, and to find information that Fourth Day will need. We also are making it so someone who is surfing the net to find out what Emmaus is about can have some answers to that question and be motivated to contact the Board about going on a Walk to Emmaus. To that end, we are requesting the Fourth Day community send TESTIMONIES of how the Walk to Emmaus has changed their life to put on a TESTIMONY page. Remember that Paul stated in 2Timothy 1:8 "So do not be ashamed to TESTIFY about our Lord." I will start us off with my TESTIMONY.

From 1985 – 1988 I was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and was Chairman of the Christian Education Committee. I was still the Sunday School Superintendent in 1991 when a friend of mine asked me to go on the Walk to Emmaus in Houston. He told me that it would help me in my faith and I agreed to go because I trusted him. I did not ask many questions. I attended the Houston Emmaus Community Walk to Emmaus #47 on Feb. 13 – 16, 1991 at the Houston Cursillo Center. I left there on Saturday, because it was a Pastor walk that ran Wednesday through Saturday, and I was sleepy and tired, but changed by God's Love. Sunday, I took stock of the Walk to Emmaus weekend and realized 4 things. First, I realized that I needed to learn more about God through his Word. I had sat at a table family that was made up of mostly pastors of Churches and I did not know much about what they were talking about. I started attending Bible studies to learn about what the Bible said. I attended Kerygma and Bethel Bible studies for the next three years and then started attending my regular Adult Bible school class. Through that, I discovered more about God and his will for us.

Second, I learned that God did Love me. I had heard and read some about God's Love for us, but I had never felt it before. On the Emmaus weekend, I really felt God's Love in my heart. I then knew that he really did love me, the real me as I was, without any requirements. With that, I started to Love our brothers and sisters in Christ and to serve people.

Third, I learned that God really did provide forgiveness for us and for us to forgive others. I sat in the pew after communion one day and cried for forgiveness and release of anger with my Dad for the hurts he had caused on me. Every tear that fell took away the anger and hurt at my Dad until none was left. I resolved and did go visit him with my family after a couple of years with no contact between us at all.

Fourth, I learned that I had the wrong idea about how to spread God's Word. I had always thought that by going to Church and treating people kindly that people would ask me about God. I was wrong. I took off my UT ring and started wearing a Christian ring that my wife gave me on Easter. It was more important for me to be known in the world as a Christian than a graduate of UT. I openly talked about my belief in God and how he loved us. I realized that if I believed in God and God is real, then I have nothing to worry about saying Grace over my meals in public restaurants. I started saying Grace over our food at home and at restaurants even when I was with coworkers. I found many people were excited to see me and my family say Grace out loud and told me so. Some even stopped me and joined me in Grace. Through all four of these things and many more lessons I learned, I became a better Christian and disciple of Christ by attending the Walk to Emmaus.

Remember Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Share your TESTIMONIES with each other to make disciples and to encourage each other. You have the opportunity to put your TESTIMONY of how the Walk to Emmaus has changed your life on the new website page by sending a written or video TESTIMONY to communications@austinemmaus.org. Start sharing now and make a difference in the GAEC community on the new website.

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
Lay Director



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

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

Christian Nelson

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 6/24/20*

Bank Balance

\$30,668.71

Scholarship Fund

\$6,499.00

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 *(provided we can gather)*

Lake Travis UMC
Bring Your Own Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

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

TESTIMONIES

Do you have testimonies or 4th Day experiences you would like to share with the community? Perhaps a reflection on your spiritual life before you attended the Walk to Emmaus, or 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 and testimonies to:

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

We will all be blessed by your words of wisdom!



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.
Officer roles and terms expire on May 31st of the above years.

Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, July 11, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 15, 2020, 4:00 p.m. *(tentative)*

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 p.m.  
(*providing we are able to meet*)**

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!

*(provided we are able to gather, may consider  
live streaming if we are unable to)*

**September 12, 2020**

Lake Travis UMC  
1502 Ranch Rd 620 N, Lakeway, 78734

Bring Your Own Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

4th Day Speaker TBD



## GAEC Facebook page!

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





## God is Calling – Will You Answer?

“Hello, Lauren, God here. I know you are working, raising your two adorable kids who are just like their mother was at their age, reffing soccer games, and doing a million other things, but I need you to do something for me. I need you to help me spread my Word and my Love by using your technical skills.”

This is the call I received from God in late February of this year after receiving a call from Steven Scott, Community Lay Director, asking if I, Lauren Moffatt, would be able to serve as the Communications Support member on the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) Board. I answered that call and if you are reading this article, you have received the monthly *WalkTalk* newsletter that I send out each month as part of my role on the Board.

At that time in early February, I had no idea how important this role would be as we entered March and began our lives with COVID-19. For the last three months, e-mails, phone calls, live streams, and Zoom meetings have become the new normal in our everyday lives and in our church lives. I have seen God’s plan for me unfold as I have used my knowledge of social media, live streaming, recording and editing videos, editing websites, and using MailChimp. The goal is to ensure that his Word continues to spread to congregation members, members of the Emmaus Community, and to those who are in search of a church community.

During this time of isolation, we have had to find new ways to ensure that we are not isolating ourselves from God. At times, this new world of communications may be uncomfortable to many, but God is calling upon all of us to cultivate our own spiritual life, to continue sharing his word, and to be a source of encouragement and hope for all of those around us. The words of 1 Thessalonians 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” – echo that call in my mind.

As you read that scripture, I invite you to take a moment to pray and ask God what you are called to do to strengthen your communications with those around you to share the goodness of God. It could be something as simple as a phone call to a friend you have not spoken to in a while or handwriting a note to homebound members of your church to brighten their day. You may feel the call to start a prayer group or a bible study with your friends and family. Someone else may feel led to find a new way for their Emmaus Reunion Group to meet on Zoom or via phone if they are not already. There are so many channels of communication available now that will allow you to strengthen your connection with God. What might work for you?

As part of my call, I ask that if you know anyone who is not receiving the *WalkTalk* newsletter or is not yet a part of the Emmaus Community after attending their walk, please have them e-mail me at [communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:communications@austinemmaus.org) so that we can add them to our amazing Community.

I pray that each of you continue to answer God as he calls upon you to serve those around you and that you continue to remain safe and healthy. Blessings to each of you.

Now if you will excuse me, I think God is calling me again so I must go answer.

**De Colores!**  
**Lauren Moffatt**  
**Communications Support**



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## GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes June 6, 2020

The June Board Meeting was held by Google Meet due to the current limited gathering size directives to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following directors were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Dennis Perryman, Assistant Lay Director; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Support; George Scherer, Assistant Upper Room Support; Lauren Moffatt, Communications Support; Chuck Tencer, Gathering Support; Jeanne Randall, Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer); Rick Seifert, Database/Website Support; and Susan McMillan, Team Selection Support. Steven Scott, Lay Director, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and opened the meeting with a devotional and a prayer.

**QUORUM:** Ten Board members were present by Google Meet providing a quorum for the meeting.

**MINUTES:** The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on May 2, 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:

**LAY DIRECTOR** – Steven welcomed Dennis Perryman to the Board of Directors for his first meeting as Assistant Lay Director. Steven will send out emails to those Board Directors who have not yet finished reviewing their Board job descriptions.

The Board discussed using personal email addresses versus paying for an outside email server to reply to emails sent to the Board members at the [austinemmaus.org](mailto:austinemmaus.org) email addresses. The Board resolved to not spend additional money on an email server.

Debby Duplantis had sent the Board a request to postpone her participation as Lay Director for Women's Walk #148 until a later date. The Board voted to thank Debby for her thoughtful request and send a reply to Debby on postponing Women's Walk #148.

The Board discussed the mission of Emmaus and how we can provide support and hope to our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community. The Board voted to take the suggestion of Mel Chambers to create online reunion groups for those who do not have a reunion group or cannot attend their reunion group because of COVID-19. Mel and Steven will work on this.

The Board discussed the upcoming September 12<sup>th</sup> Gathering at Lake Travis UMC and the possibility of live streaming the Gathering for those not comfortable attending in person. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

The Board discussed the Annual Meeting, and because of COVID-19 we could not hold our Annual Meeting at the June Gathering. We resolved to cancel the Annual Meeting in June since the Board positions run June 1 to May 31 for the year of service. Therefore, the Board officers will continue their roles as if we had held the Annual Meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Patti reported the Frost Bank balance reconciles with the Aplos balance of \$15,395.82. Patti made the motion to accept the financial report, the motion was seconded and passed.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** – Mel reported we should be receiving a refund on the trailer insurance from The Upper Room. Mel will send out by email the Upper Room Covenant to be signed by the Board. Mel will also get the Clergy Training online link from The Upper Room on Tuesday.

**DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT** – Rick provided an update on the Website Improvement Subcommittee. Their goal is to have the updated website operational by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The database subcommittee work is ongoing.

**COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT** – Lauren is moving all the past *WalkTalks* to the updated website.

**WALK SUPPORT** – Jeanne reported she will update the sign-ups to delete Women's Walk #147. Jeanne and Steven will work on updating the Agape community letter for the updated website. Prepared Agape items that Steven and Jeanne have will need to be given to Jo Peters. The Board discussed the possibility of donating Agape that isn't sufficient enough for Walks to be sent out to our Fourth Day members to cheer them up. This will be discussed further with Jo.



*Board Minutes continue on page 7*

*Board Minutes continued from page 6*

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – Chuck Tencer will reach out to Bob Duplantis about having a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker, music, and the possibility of live streaming the September 12<sup>th</sup> Gathering at Lake Travis UMC.

**TEAM SELECTION** – Patti nominated Chris McKemie to serve as one of the Fourth Day community members on the Team Selection committee. Jeanne seconded and the nomination passed. Steven nominated Gary Johnson to also serve as one of the Fourth Day community members on the Team Selection committee. Jeanne seconded and the nomination passed.

Susan, George, and Rick will nominate two members (male and female) from the old Eagles Wings community to also serve as Fourth Day community members on the Team Selection committee at our next Board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS** – The By-Laws will be updated when the job descriptions are approved. Steven reported the August Board meeting will not be held at Bethany UMC due to COVID-19 and will be determined at the next meeting if we meet at all.

Mel asked Patti to confirm when we paid the CCLI license to determine if Rick should cancel the old Eagles Wings CCLI license. During the meeting Patti confirmed that the GAEC had not paid the CCLI license for the current year ending June 30, 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Rick provided an update on the completion of merger documents. The state is backed up on processing our certificate of account status for 4-6 weeks. We resolved to finish all our other paperwork to finish in the same timeframe. Rick will also check on the process to close out the Eagles Wings bank account.

**WALKTALK ARTICLES** - Steven will write the Lay Director report for the *WalkTalk*. Lauren will also submit an article for the *WalkTalk*.

Dennis Perryman closed the meeting with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

*Minutes written and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck from notes taken by Steven Scott in the absence of Harold Sundbeck.*



**Kairos Prison  
Ministries**

## **Kairos Prison Ministry**

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families. The word Kairos is a Greek word meaning in "God's Special Time" or in the "Fullness of Time," indicating an opportunity for participants to reconsider their life choices. Kairos Weekends are typically held in the June/July and December/January time frame at the Ferguson Unit near Huntsville, Texas.

There are several ways you can participate in a Kairos weekend. One of them is by baking cookies.

Watch this video on YouTube to see how Kairos cookies change lives:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXV\\_lgVWwA4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXV_lgVWwA4)

For more details on preparing cookies, or other ways you can support Kairos, contact Randy Nettles at 512-636-0832.

***"... I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:36***

## 2020 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

Dinner 5:30 PM  
Music and Worship at 6:30 PM

### September 12, 2020

*(providing we are able to gather, may consider  
live streaming if we are unable to)*

Lake Travis UMC  
1502 Ranch Rd 620 N, Lakeway, 78734  
Bring Your Own 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  
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!

