



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



August 2020

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 31, Number 8

TESTIMONY

I pray that you and your family are safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month I told you that Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) is updating our website and hope to roll it out in September. I also told you that 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 started us off last month with my TESTIMONY from attending a Walk to Emmaus. This month I will continue with TESTIMONY of working an Emmaus Walk team.

I attended the Houston Emmaus Community Walk to Emmaus #47 on Feb. 13 – 16, 1991 at the Houston Cursillo Center. A couple of months passed, and then I was asked to work an Emmaus team in August 1991. I was asked to serve as a Table Leader. That was back in the day when there was not an Assistant Table Leader. I wondered if I could do that job, since I was alone at the table with the pilgrims. I was also asked to give a talk. I prayed about it and I felt that God had wanted me to be a Table Leader and to give a talk. I had stepped out in faith that God would prepare me for the Table Leader position and help me give the talk. I started writing the talk and started realizing this was going to be harder than I thought it would be! I had always been a shy person and now not only do I have to stand in front of people to do a talk, I was going to have to talk about MYSELF. I had never stood in front of people that I did not know as an Adult to give a talk before. I think it is important for people that are outgoing to know that for a shy person to talk about personal things is really a hard thing! I was concerned that people would judge me and think less of me for my personal things.

I had finished writing the talk and now for the next to last team meeting, I was supposed to give the talk to the team for review. However, I got sick on Thursday and decided to only go to the team meeting on Saturday at the time I was to give the talk, even though I was still sick, to not mess up the last team meeting schedule. I was very emotional doing the talk since it was the first personal feeling talk as I explained above and I was sick. I made it through the talk! One of my friends during the critique by the team members' stated to the team and me that my legs were visibility shaking quite a bit during the talk. I did not know that because I was having a hard time even speaking the words out!

During the prayer over me after my talk, the chapel person stated that God gave the talk through me with my experiences to the people in the room to hear. I realized later after giving the talk on the Emmaus Walk weekend that God had used my experiences to affect someone who will hear the talk to comfort them in their same or similar experiences. I had no problem being the Table Leader and our Table Family became close friends from the Walk weekend.

The whole intent of the Emmaus Movement is to develop church leadership and strengthen the witness of the Christian community in word and deed. I changed by gaining confidence to be able to be a Table Leader. I also changed by being able to talk about personal things to people to explain how my faith grew. I had stepped out in faith with God and he took me through the experience, changing me in the process. After that it was much easier to talk about my personal experiences of my life journey.

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. We have not received many yet, so step out in faith and be changed by the experience!

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*

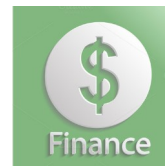
Lauren Moffatt

Communications@austinemmaus.org

*denotes a change in person holding position



Board of Directors



Financial Statement as of 7/25/20

Bank Balance

\$35,092.26

Scholarship Fund

\$5,301.50

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!



Join us for our first LIVE STREAM Gathering from Lake Travis UMC!

September 12, 2020

Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Further details coming soon!

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

Communications@austinemmaus.org



Kellye Noret completed the July WalkTalk and then decided it was time!

Kellye has retired from being the WalkTalk editor. The Greater Austin Emmaus Board (GAEC) wants to thank Kellye for her dedication, passion, and generous time spent over two time periods for a total of 17 years in the production of the WalkTalk as the WalkTalk Editor! The WalkTalk is the way the GAEC Board communicates what is going on in the community and Kellye made that communication possible! Now that Kellye has retired, she will have more time to do gardening!

Lauren Moffatt, the Communications Support person on the Board, will take over as the WalkTalk Editor. Lauren has experience doing newsletters for churches and looks forward to taking over from Kellye with this August WalkTalk. Lauren will also be the Administrator for the GAEC Facebook Page.

De Colores,
Steven Scott, Lay Director

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, September 12, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 21, 2020 3:00 p.m.

The above Board meetings will be held online.

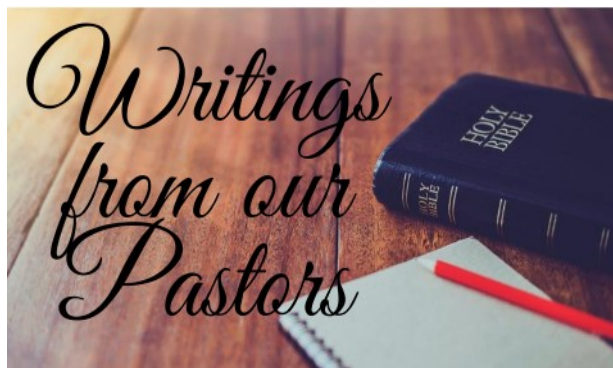
Clergy Corner

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:

Communications@austinemmaus.org

We will all be blessed by your words of wisdom!



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.



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>



GAEC Facebook page!

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



My Journey of Growth

The uncertainty of how our lives will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic continues. How I interact with coworkers and friends is so radically different today than it was 6 months ago. How I interact with my church community has changed too. Today, I spend my Sunday mornings taking a walk with my sweet dog, then I settle into a comfortable chair to watch our church service on a live stream through Facebook. After the service, our Sunday school class meets over Zoom. Six months ago, I was able to see everyone in person, shake hands, share stories from the past week, and recharge my soul with song and fellowship in a space filled with people. Six months ago, I was also able to meet my Emmaus reunion group on Wednesday mornings for breakfast at Jim's on 183 and McNeil. Today, our group members are not comfortable meeting in a restaurant. I am proud to say that it finally dawned on me that I could have a reunion group meeting online using Zoom. We had our first meeting last week, and we agreed on a schedule for future meetings. This also gives us the ability to include group members that moved out of our area and that spend their summers up north in Michigan. How are you staying connected?

My name is Christian Nelson. I am new to the GAEC board, volunteering to fill the Reunion Group/POC Support position. My first task is to go through the Point of Contact list and update the primary contacts at the churches that participate in Emmaus. The list on the website will be updated over the next couple of months, so if you have updates that you would like to share please contact me at ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org.

In 1996, my wife and I had two children and our third was due in March of the next year. We attended First United Methodist in Austin and we were part of an awesome Sunday school class that was busting at the seams. I hadn't heard about Emmaus, but one of our class members was the daughter of Tom Ausley, who was very active and who was the Board Representative on an upcoming walk. I think that we had 9 men from our class signed up for Walk 537 at Mount Wesley in November 1996. My walk was a life changing experience. I had no expectations of what the

weekend would hold. It was the best walk ever and it was an important step in my faith journey. I found a picture of our table group (St Mark's – David Cansler, Mike McNeil, Spencer Swift, Steve Tackett, Hank Seyfarth, Christian Nelson, Dave McNeely, Bob Deming)



After my walk, I continued to grow. I remember bringing a bible to work so that I could have one at my desk. My faith wasn't something that I wanted to hide, I wanted to be asked about it. I participated in Disciple I and II, then I co-taught Disciple I with Rev. John McMullen the following year. The Disciple classes are a structured format to read and study the bible.

In 1999 we moved to Bethany United Methodist in North Austin. It wasn't long before we joined a Sunday school class and we started to make new friends. Finding a small group makes it easier for us to integrate into a church. We participated in church activities and events. Bethany has an annual church retreat at the HEB camp west of Kerrville in the spring that we attended. All these events provide opportunities to get to know others in the church. Also, along the way I was fortunate to have numerous male mentors from whom I could learn.

Our family has had a couple of crisis events in the past two decades. During these events, we were not able to manage on our own and our church family stepped in to help. For me, each of these events required me to reach out to God for strength because I wasn't able to stand on my own. I believe that we can grow in our faith during these trying events, because we are stretched to our limits. Just as our muscles are made stronger by lifting weights, our faith is made stronger by relying on God during difficult times.

The COVID-19 pandemic is just one source of unease in 2020. I pray that we will be able to pull strength from God. John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

De Colores!
Christian Nelson

GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes July 11, 2020

The July 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 members were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Dennis Perryman, Assistant Lay Director; Fred Widmer, Past Lay Director; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Support; George Scherer, Assistant Upper Room Support; Chuck Tencer, Gathering Support; Jeanne Randall, Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer); Jo Peters, Assistant Walk Support (Agape); Christian Nelson, Reunion Group/POC Support; Nelda Carpenter, Training Support and Rick Seifert, Database/Website 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: Eleven 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 June 6 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 Christian Nelson to the Board of Directors for his first meeting as Reunion Group/POC Support. Steven is working the final draft of the Board job descriptions and eliminating the track changes. He will send out to the Board for final review.

A motion was made by Jeanne and seconded by Nelda to send a thank you card to Kellye Noret thanking her for her for her many years of serving as the editor of the WalkTalk for the Emmaus Community. The motion passed.

Kellye has served the GAEC passionately over two different terms totaling 17 years as the WalkTalk editor. Steven will send Kellye a thank you letter expressing our appreciation for her long years of service.

Steven has contacted Eagle's Wings Retreat Center to secure Walk dates for 2021 since the 2020 walks have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eagle's Wings Retreat Center reported they have had a number of clients reschedule to 2021 so Steven has secured 3/18-3/21 for Women's Walk #147, 6/10-6/13 for Men's Walk #146, and 11/4-11/7 for Women's Walk #148. Nelda made a motion to accept these dates and Jeanne seconded the motion. The motion passed. Steven will get the paperwork from Eagle's Wings to reserve these dates.

Steven discussed the mission of Emmaus and how we can provide support and hope to our 4th Day Community. Steven reported the testimony he wrote for the WalkTalk is the first testimony for the new website to reach out to our community and web surfers. Steven encouraged the Board to each write or video a testimony for the website.

Steven reported the COVID-19 virus has affected the September 12 Gathering at Lake Travis UMC. We will not have an in-person gathering at the church.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Patti Bizzell emailed her report as she would not be present for the BOD meeting. The reconciled balance between APLOS and Frost Bank is \$35,200.42 for June 2020. Rick made the motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Dennis Perryman. The motion passed. The CCLI for 2020 was paid by credit card. Rick does not need to extend the old Eagle's Wings CCLI license.

UPPER ROOM REPORT – Mel Chambers will double check that he has all the covenant signatures from the Board and send to the Upper Room when complete. Mel reported that he has started a Wesley Reunion Group online and will open it up to others after it has been up and running for a few weeks.

DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT – Rick reported the next meeting of the website subcommittee is 7/18/2020.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT – Lauren Moffatt is out but Steven discussed with her taking over the WalkTalk Editor position and as moderator of the Facebook page since Kellye has retired. Lauren has agreed to serve in both of these positions since she handles the Communications Support and has the skills to do the work.

WALK/ASSISTANT WALK SUPPORT – Jeanne will get Jo set up as assistant administrator for Sign Up Genius. Jeanne will adjust the dates on the Sign Up Genius for the new 3/18-3/21 Walk date. Jeanne will send the Agape Community Letter to Steven and work on revisions that might be needed. Jo suggested that Jeanne and Steven set up a time to bring over Agape.

Continued on
next page



Board Minutes continued from page 6

GATHERING SUPPORT – Chuck Tencer reported that Lake Travis UMC is not having worship and will not host an in-person gathering on September 12. Joann Robison with Lake Travis UMC contacted Steven about having an online gathering. She will let Steven know if that is a possibility after she speaks with the church. Cedar Creek is another possible online gathering location.

REUNION GROUP/POC SUPPORT – Christian is working on adding the old Eagles Wings churches to the POC list.

TRAINING SUPPORT - Nelda has filled out the training form and will send it in.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred, George, Susan and Rick will send out male and female names for nomination from the old Eagles Wings Community to be elected to the Fourth Day Team Selection Committee.

The Board agreed to not meet in August.

OLD BUSINESS – The state has completed the certification of account status and Steven will complete the forms for GAEC to complete the merger documents.

Rick has transferred all funds from the Eagles Wings bank account except for a few dollars to Patti. Patti has deposited the funds into the GAEC account and these additional funds are included in the Financial Report.

WALKTALK ARTICLES - Christian and Steven will write articles for the WalkTalk.

Nelda Carpenter closed the meeting with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 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

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

Upcoming 2020 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

Livestreaming from :



Lake Travis UMC
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.
4th Day Speaker TBD



More details will be coming out soon!

Hope Presbyterian Church
Music and Worship at 6:30 p.m.
4th Day Speaker TBD



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:
Communications@austinemmaus.org

We will all be blessed by your sharing!



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 if you are interested.

We will all be blessed by your sharing!

