



## The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



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April 2021

Volume 32, Number 2

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### LIGHT

I pray that you and your family are safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. If you remember in the October WalkTalk, I told you that my wife, Paula, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had her lumpectomy and 15 radiation treatments before Christmas. The worst part was actually after the radiation stopped because of the cumulative effect of the radiation. She is on estrogen blocker drugs for five years to reduce the likelihood of the cancer coming back. She still has fluid in the area where the tissue was removed. If you remember in October, I told you we were confident that God would get her through the lumpectomy and radiation treatment. It was not easy and there was a lot of pain. Paula just had her checkup, and she doing great except for the fluid not going away and her being tired easily. We are very thankful for your prayers and God's providence. Praise God!

I tell you all this because, I have believed for a long time that we go through things in our lives that are about strengthening our faith and learning to trust God. Paula and I have grown the most in our faith when we had the problems, issues, or bad times. Also, I believe sometimes it is more than about us. We go through things so that we can understand the issues and can have compassion for others going through what we went through. We can have a bond with others because they know that we went through the same problems, issues, or bad times and came out OK on the other side. We can be their "on earth" comforters to show them love or the LIGHT that God gives us. Since Paula's breast cancer treatment, she has been a LIGHT comforter to three friends through Emmaus in Houston and one friend here in Austin who have been diagnosed with breast cancer after Paula.

If we are totally honest with each other, NO ONE goes through life unscathed by problems or bad times. Sometimes when we are in the thick of the issue or bad time, we think we are the only one that has problems or bad times. We can list people that we know that seem to not have any issues or bad times but that is not true. We just do not see their issues or bad times! Without Bad times we really cannot appreciate the Good times! God's LIGHT on the stars cannot shine without darkness! We can handle far more things than we think we can with God's help to give us strength. We need to remember to continue to spread God's LIGHT by sharing our love with those that are in bad times. We can still show his LIGHT or love whether we went through that issue or not!

The bible has a lot to say about LIGHT in the world:

**John 8:12** - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the LIGHT of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the LIGHT of life."

**John 1:5** - The LIGHT shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Ephesians 5:8** - For at one time you were darkness, but now you are LIGHT in the Lord. Walk as children of LIGHT.

**Matthew 5:14** - "You are the LIGHT of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

**Psalms 27:1** - Of David. The Lord is my LIGHT and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**Psalms 119:105** - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a LIGHT to my path.

We are still requesting the Fourth Day community to send TESTIMONIES of how the Walk to Emmaus has changed their life to put on a TESTIMONY page on the GAEC website. Remember that Paul stated in **2 Timothy 1:8** "So do not be ashamed to TESTIFY about our Lord." You can check the last three WalkTalk editions on the GAEC website for Board member testimonies to give you an idea of what the article might look like (<https://www.austinemmaus.org/testimonials/>). Send a written or video TESTIMONY to [communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:communications@austinemmaus.org). **Start off the new year now by sharing** 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.

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

### 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\*

Rick Seifert

[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\*

Open

[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

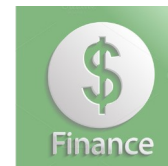
Lauren Moffatt

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

\*denotes a change in person holding position



## Board of Directors



### Financial Statement As of 3/31/21

**Bank Balance**  
**\$32,634.13**

### 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!



**WATCH  
LIVESTREAM**

Join us for our first  
In-Person/Live Stream Gathering  
from Bethany UMC!

**May 15, 2021**

Music and Worship at 4:00 p.m.

**Further details coming soon!**

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

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

## Our Third and Fourth Live Stream Gatherings

We had our third live stream gathering on Saturday January 9, 2021 at 6:15pm at Pflugerville UMC. There were only a few people at Pflugerville UMC to facilitate the live streaming. We had 2 musicians and 2 singers to provide the worshipful music with six songs. Our Fourth Day speaker was Kenny Kant who provided an uplifting talk. We took an offering and had communion. We thank Pflugerville UMC for hosting our gathering to allow the Austin Fourth Day Community to worship.

We had our fourth live stream gathering on Saturday March 13, 2021 at 6:15pm at Lake Travis UMC. There were only a few people at Lake Travis UMC to facilitate the live streaming. We had 2 musicians and 1 singer to provide the worshipful music with six songs. Our Fourth Day speaker was Joe Gorman who provided an uplifting talk. We took an offering for the few people at Lake Travis UMC and reminded everyone that you can also participate in the offering by sending a check to our treasurer:

Austin Emmaus  
12005 Black Angus Dr.  
Austin, TX 78727

We had a joint communion led by Pastor Sylvester Chase for the few present and for those at home that had their own communion elements, so we could have communion together at the same time.

We had 99 different devices join in the live stream gathering at Lake Travis or view the live stream later either partially or totally on Vimeo.

The live stream was a way for us to worship together and feel connected to the Austin Fourth Day Community and God. For those who did not get a chance to see the live stream yet, you can still view it on the following Vimeo link: <https://vimeo.com/518395947>. It still is a quite different feeling to speak to a very empty sanctuary!

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, and continued blessings on you and all those around you.

De Colores!  
Steven Scott,  
Lay Director GAEC

<u>OFFICER ROLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Lay Director	Steven Scott	2022
Assistant Lay Director	Dennis Perryman	2022
Past Lay Director	Fred Widmer	2022
Secretary	Harold Sundbeck	2022
Treasurer	Rick Seifert	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	Open	2023



**Term Expiration 2021-4, 2022-4, 2023-5**  
**Top three Directors expire every year.**  
**Officer roles and terms expire on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the above years.**



### **Next GAEC Board Meeting**

Saturday, May 15, 2021 1:00 p.m.

**The above Board meeting will be held online.**

### **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).



Patti Bizzell decided that 3 years and 8 months was the end of her call and her focus had to be on other things. Patti informed the GAEC Board that she was resigning as Treasurer effective January 26, 2021. Patti heard God's call to start being the GAEC Treasurer in June 2017. Patti discussed with Rick Seifert the duties of the Treasurer position and Rick after prayer has agreed to become the new Treasurer. Rick's duties on the Board as Database/Website Support will be given to a new Board member. Patti in her servant way, has trained Rick on all the duties and software so that GAEC will not miss a beat on the transition of the duties of the Treasurer! She worked tirelessly to keep our financials accurate and timely and attended almost all the GAEC Board meetings during her term. She also worked numerous walk teams during her term as the food agape person. We thank Patti for her 44 months of service to the GAEC Board and to the GAEC Fourth Day as Treasurer!

De Colores!

Steven Scott, Lay Director



## Talking to Just Me

I am Covid weary. I am zoomed out. That makes me pretty normal right now as many of us have found the past year....er, uh,...perhaps "trying" is the word. But, you know what? I have been weary before. Life has it's ups and downs. I am reminded of another time in my life I was weary. My life had been turned upside down and my normal supports seemed to have disappeared and to say I was not feeling like a very successful person was an understatement. I had a plane reservation to take myself to Colorado for a vacation because mountains feed my soul. But God had other plans.

God told me to cancel the plane reservation and go on an Emmaus Walk that was happening. No, I don't hear voices. I can't explain how God told me that but it was very clear that I was supposed to go on that Walk. I knew all about Emmaus...or at least I thought I did. I had been being invited to Walks for thirteen years. I had friends and clients who had been and I had heard many snippets and stories that most people don't hear about Walks. After all, you can tell your therapist anything because the therapist has to keep what you say confidential.

So off I went knowing what would happen. Boy was I wrong. On the way when we stopped for dinner, the restaurant lost our order and by the time they figured that out and got food to us it was nearly time to be at the Walk. No problem. I knew from all the stories I had heard that they feed you 24 hours a day so, even though I am hypoglycemic and need to eat regularly, I hurriedly gulped down a bite or two and left the restaurant knowing I would soon be fed again. Okay, so Thursday night was not my favorite night of the Walk.

I lived until Friday morning. I got up and got dressed with NO help from Sandy Cheatham Moranto who had managed to pick up my brush with her stuff while I was washing my hair and unknowingly put it in her suitcase. Friday morning, wet hair, no brush., how do you ask for help on Friday morning???? What an adventure. Oh well, I was about to get breakfast and caffeine. But no, they told me to go to chapel. What??? Send someone who is hypoglycemic to chapel with no food or caffeine??? I cannot be spiritual when my blood sugar is low and my hair is a mess! What kind of torture would they think of next??? This was not in the stories I had been told.

Friday got better after breakfast and it became more of what I knew would happen at the Walk. But then Saturday hit! No story could have prepared me for Saturday's experience. You know how sometimes it seems a speaker is talking to just you? Well, it seemed a speaker was talking to just me. It literally took my breath away. It pierced my hurting heart and God did a mighty healing work in me. The quote "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away" became very real and personal in my life that day.

God knew the Emmaus Community was just what I needed at that point in my life. I began helping with Walks and enjoying the gatherings. Then I joined the Board and eventually was Lay Director for a Walk. One very big piece of Covid weary has been missing the gatherings. I miss the hugs. I miss the music. I miss the 4th day talks. I miss seeing people whose lives only cross mine at gatherings. I miss the energy of all that in person talking during dinner.

But, if there is anything I learned at my Walk, it is that God's timing is perfect. What was said in that talk that pierced my heart would not have been said at any previous Walk. Had I made it anytime in the previous thirteen years, the Walk would not have had the same impact on me. So, I choose to believe that God has lessons in this time of Covid. I choose to do what I have been having clients do. I choose to look at the gifts of Covid. Yes, you heard me correctly....the gifts of Covid. I choose to see God's provision during this time. I choose to say thank you for those good things that have and are happening during this time. I choose to believe that I will appreciate those in person gatherings in a renewed way when we finally get to break bread together and hug again. I choose to treasure the technology enabled contacts I have had with some Emmaus friends during this time.

As I write this I hear birds singing. When I look outside I see signs of spring even so quickly following the Texas Snowpocalypse. God is at still at work and can even use Zoom and other technology to keep us going until we can meet in person again.

**De Colores,  
Nelda Carpenter  
GAEC Training Support**

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# GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

## March 13, 2021

**The March Board Meeting was held by Google Meet due to the current pandemic restrictions on mass gatherings to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

The following members were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Rick Seifert, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Support; George Scherer, Assistant Upper Room Support; Chuck Tencer, Gathering Support; Jeanne Randall, Walk Support (Sign-Up/Trailer); Jo Peters, Walk Support (Agape); and Nelda Carpenter, Training Support,

The meeting was called to order at 3:21pm and Nelda Carpenter opened the meeting in prayer.

**QUORUM:** Nine 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 January 9, 2021 and were approved 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'S REPORT** – Steven Scott reported that Patti Bizzell has resigned from the Board of Directors but will continue to serve as a temporary back-up for Rick Seifert, who has agreed to move into the Treasurer position. The Board wants to thank Patti for her many years of service to the Greater Austin Emmaus Community.

We will need to find a permanent back-up for Treasurer and we will also need a new member to serve as Database/Website Support.

Due to our limited meeting and Gathering abilities and no Walks over the past year, Steven Scott asked the Board members to consider serving an additional year on the Board. Fred, Dennis and Steven have agreed to extend their roles for another year for the benefit of the GAEC community as Past Lay Director, Assistant Lay Director and Lay Director.

Steven hopes to send out the final Board job descriptions before the next Board meeting.

Fred will sign and send out the letter to the Upper Room reporting the finalization of the Eagles Wings Merger.

Due to the on-going Covid restrictions Steven made a motion to cancel the planned Walk for June 10-13. Mel seconded the motion. The motion passed. At this time, we are still scheduled for future Walk dates of November 4-7, 2021.

Steven recommended we cancel the April Board meeting. Jeanne Randall made a motion there not be a Board meeting in April and George seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mailchimp was sent out requesting Reunion Group info on times, locations, contact info and online info from the community to be able to update the website.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Rick Seifert submitted the Treasurer's report by email. His report indicated the Frost Bank balance reconciled with the Aplos balance of \$32,857.21. The report was approved by email.

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next page



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**DATABASE/WEBSITE SUPPORT** – Rick Seifert reported no new info at this time.

**WALK SUPPORT** – Steven provided a copy of the existing Agape Community Letter. Steven and Lauren will work on a new updated Agape Community letter. Jeanne will finish going through the Eagles Wings trailer for additional usable items.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – The March Gathering will take place today at Lake Travis UMC at 6:15 with a live-stream showing.

The May 15<sup>th</sup> Gathering will take place at Bethany UMC. Chuck is still working on host churches for the remaining 2021 year.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Steven will have us work on updating the By-Laws in the future.

**OLD BUSINESS** – We still need two community members for the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Team Selection committee.

Steven Scott closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of Greater Austin Emmaus Fourth Day Community, Inc., d/b/a Greater Austin Emmaus Community and that these foregoing minutes were adopted and approved by email by the Board of Directors on April 10, 2021

*Minutes written and respectfully submitted by GAEC Secretary, Harold Sundbeck.*



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***

## How Much Do You Like the Word—TEST?

Well if you're like me, not very well. I study hard before the TEST to know the correct answers and get a good grade. TESTS are not much fun when the topic is not very interesting, and when TESTS seem to be presented with many complications, or did I answer them all? But something to remember is that TESTS are also part of our lives. Something we all live with like it or not.

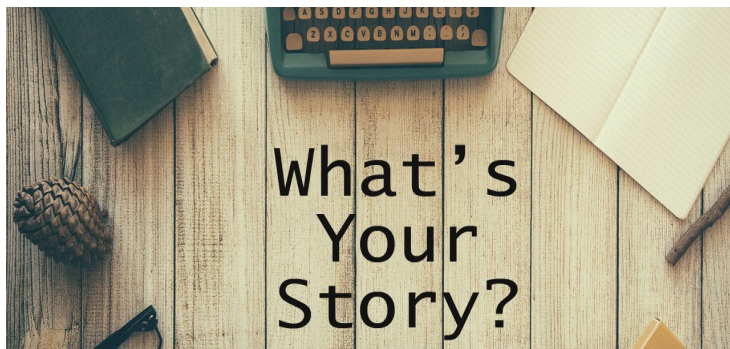
In my years as an adult being TESTED is part of life. Some TESTS require answering questions, while others are evaluating a situation and what is the best solution for me or sometimes for others too. One TEST we all have recently gone through is a Pandemic called COVID-19. All of our personal lives have changed. We have seen many changes in some while others have not.

My church's Wednesday morning Bible Study based on the book "FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN" by Ray Vander Laan covered the Hebrews Exodus story. In reading the scriptures in Exodus we read about:

Moses birth, as an adult Moses ran away to Midian after killing an Egyptian who beat a Hebrew slave, the burning bush, the plagues put on the Egyptians to let His people go, crossing the Red Sea and entering the desert for 40 years. In these 40 years there were TESTS placed on Moses by the Hebrew people. TESTS like where is the water we need? Where is the food we need? Where is our God? So the Hebrew's built a Golden Calf to worship when Moses went up the mountain for the 10 Commandments. Finally being in the desert and seeing Moses' death, and never crossing the Jordan River.

While studying Ray Vander Laan's book and the Old Testament book of Exodus an unwanted issue arrived. I had back surgery in April. Then I fell and broke my left hip requiring a complete replacement in June. During this time I eventually came to the realization that God was TESTING me in my situation as I sat feeling sorry for myself. I started to read "Our Daily Bread" the daily devotional. The more I read, the more I realized the importance of relying more on God's loving mercy towards me and the assurance of my trusting faith in Jesus. On March 1st I read that day's devotional titled, "Never Give Up." I now have lived the TEST and realize that I receive a never ending LOVE from God, and that I can give this Love to others.

De Colores,  
Fred Widmer  
GAEC Past Lay Director



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

We will all be blessed by your sharing!



# Upcoming 2021 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

## Our Next Gathering - May 15, 2021

GOOD NEWS!!! Our next gathering will be both in-person and a live stream gathering on May 15, 2021 at Bethany UMC. The gathering will be at 4pm to allow Bethany to do cleaning for their in-person Worship services on Sunday morning.

The format for the gathering will be similar to what we have been doing for our past live stream gathering. We will have songs before announcements and songs during worship. Communion will be by Communion premade packages. Those at home will have the opportunity to take Communion at the same time by having their own elements.

Bethany **will require masks** and we will be seated in alternate rows with 2 seats between families for social distancing. The sanctuary will be fogged prior to the gathering to eliminate COVID and any other germs.

Mark Rolland will be the Fourth Day speaker.

We will provide more information on the in-person and a live stream gathering by MailChimp as we get closer to the May 15 date. We look forward to you attending the First GAEC in-person and live stream gathering at Bethany UMC.

If you have any questions about Bethany UMC's COVID procedures, please contact Lauren Moffatt, who serves as the Bethany Office Manager and GAEC board member for Communications Support via email at [communications@austinemmaus.org](mailto:communications@austinemmaus.org)

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To view the video of our March Gathering from Lake Travis UMC  
please use the link below:

<https://vimeo.com/518395947>

## 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!

