



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



July 2021

Volume 32, Number 3

He Walks With Me and Talks With Me

I pray that you and your family are safe and enjoying the summer. I was reading my Upper Room devotional recently and it was about the scripture Matthew 11:29-30 Jesus said "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." The writer lived in Arizona and related how he got off the mountain trail and he had a sense of panic and his pack seemed much heavier. After calming himself he reoriented himself with his compass and his pack seemed lighter. He safely returned home. He related that he ran into trouble as soon as he decided to find his own way. He was reminded that when he spends time daily reading scripture and building his relationship with God, he is refreshed and always able to find his way home.

I was reminded when I read this devotional of when I was living in Taiwan at the age of 12 with my Air Force family. I had joined a Christian youth group that my friend had invited me to attend called Christ Can Conquer (CCC). My family did not attend church, so this was all new to me. I received a really cool paperback bible that had drawings in it. It was the Good News Bible New Testament first edition which I still have. We sat together at meetings reading the bible and having people interpret what it meant to them. Youth would also talk about how it affected their life by reading the scriptures in the bible. I was taught a song called He Lives. I still remember a verse that said "**He walks with me and talks with me** along life's narrow way." I was changed forever by those experiences but I really did not know it.

I came back to San Antonio and attended high school. My family did not attend church except at Easter so I did not go to church until my girl friend (now wife), Paula, took me to the Protestant service at Kelly Air Force base. I realized I was inquisitive about the bible. The pastor was doing a series on the Lords Prayer and what each few words meant. I really enjoyed that study and learning about God. Then I attended San Antonio Junior College and was busy working 60 hours a week and doing school work. I did not attend church. I went away to UT for 3 years and again was too busy with school to go to church. I graduated and moved to San Antonio for a year, but still did not attend church. Finally we moved to Houston and Paula became pregnant with our son. I made a decision to go find a church before our son was born so he could be raised in the church unlike me. We became members in a new start up Presbyterian Church, Westminster Presbyterian. A few months passed, and Paula was asked to join the Nurture Committee and I was asked to be the Sunday School Superintendent. We both accepted after praying about the positions. Ironic that I was the Sunday School Superintendent and really had no knowledge of Sunday School. I had to study to learn what to do and prayed a lot for guidance. I came to find out that Sunday School was very important to me since I never had it. I remained the Sunday School Superintendent for 12 years enjoying it and helping people find their gifts of teaching Sunday School. I now know that it was God's plan for me to be the Sunday School Superintendent so I could learn about Sunday School and become a teacher myself. God Does Not Call The Equipped, He Equips The Called!

Through all of this time of my life, I later learned after attending Emmaus, God was pursuing me to come to know him better. God was **walking** with me and I did not know it for years. Then I made a conscious decision to **walk** with God and to learn to know him better. God has **talked** to me through prayer for years in comforting me, healing me, giving me direction, and giving me peace. God truly does Live in my life "**He walks with me and talks with me** along life's narrow way." My prayer for you is that you daily continue to **walk and talk** with God as you travel through life's narrow way!

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. **Continue 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.

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

Rick Seifert

Treasurer@austinemmaus.org

Upper Room Support

Mel Chambers

UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org

Assist Upper Room Support

Nelda Carpenter

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

Tami Pharr

TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org

Reunion Group/POC Support

Christian Nelson

ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org

Training Support

Terri Engdahl

Training@austinemmaus.org

Database/Website Support*

Open

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

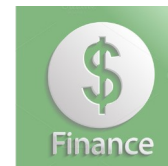
Lauren Moffatt

Communications@austinemmaus.org

*denotes a change in person holding position



Board of Directors



Financial Statement *As of 6/30/21*

Bank Balance
\$31,940.17

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 Post Pandemic
In-Person/Gathering
at Hope Presbyterian Church!

July 10, 2021

Music and Worship at 6:15 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

Our First Live Stream and In Person Gathering of 2021 at Bethany UMC

Our first gathering that was both in-person and a live stream on May 15, 2021 at Bethany UMC was a success. The gathering was early on in the coming out of the pandemic protocols so we still required masks and we were seated in alternate rows with 2 seats between families for social distancing. We started at 4pm to allow Bethany time to do cleaning in the sanctuary for their Sunday services. We enjoyed the six songs we sang and it was a great feeling to sing in person with people in the room. Also, before and after the service it was great to have conversations and see people we have not seen for 16 months.

Our Fourth Day speaker was Cindy Dollar and we enjoyed her talk and how it tied right in to the song after her talk that was chosen without even knowing what her talk was about. However, that was proof that God knew and a lot of us had goosebumps. We collected an offering in the back of the sanctuary. We had prepackaged communion elements and shared communion with those who had the elements at home led by Pastor Sylvester Chase.

You can check out the video of the Live Gathering by clicking the following link:

Bethany YouTube

<https://youtu.be/2s7xflywE6Y>

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	2023
Treasurer	Rick Seifert	2023
Upper Room Support	Mel Chambers	2022
Assist Upper Room Support	Nelda Carpenter	2023
Communications Support	Lauren Moffatt	2024
Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)	Jeanne Randall	2023
Assistant Walk Support (Agape)	Jo Peters	2022
Gathering Support	Chuck Tencer	2024
Spiritual Director	Rev. Sylvester Chase	2022
Team Selection Support	Tami Pharr	2022
Reunion Group/POC Support	Christian Nelson	2024
Training Support	Terri Engdahl	2024
Database/Website Support	Open	2024



Term Expiration 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 Meeting

Saturday, July 10, 2021 3:00 p.m.

The above Board meeting will be held at
Hope Presbyterian Church.

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.



Greater Austin Emmaus Community 2021 Walk

Women's Walk #147

When: November 4-7

Location: Eagle's Wings Retreat Center (2805 RR 2341, Burnet, TX)

Cost: \$210

Deena Raynor, Lay Director

Contact: Deena@austinemmaus.org

TBD, Spiritual Director

Contact: TBD

Lynn Magee, Board Representative

Contact: Lynn@austinemmaus.org

Steven Scott, Servant Team Coordinator

Contact: LayDirector@austinemmaus.org

GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2021

The May 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; Fred Widmer, Past Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Rick Seifert, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Support; Nelda Carpenter, Assistant Upper Room Support; Lauren Moffatt, Communications Support; Chuck Tencer, Gathering Support; Jo Peters, Walk Support (Agape); and Christian Nelson, Reunion Group/POC 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 March 13, 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 the Board terms of service have been set with current openings for Team Selection Support, Training Support and Database/Website Support. Nelda Carpenter has moved into the Assistant Upper Room Support position and Mel will be her mentor. Chuck indicated he has someone for Database/Website Support and will get back to Steven.

We are still in need of a permanent back-up for Treasurer. Rick will assist with the search.

Steven sent out the current job descriptions for review by the Board.

The letter to the Upper Room reporting the finalization of the Eagles Wings Merger has been sent.

Steven reported Eagles Wings is presently holding retreats as large as 90 people with their staff all vaccinated and he recommended we vote to have the Women's Walk. Discussion was offered on recommendations for Walk protocols. Mel made an amended motion that mask would not be required but vaccinations are recommended but not required. Rick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Women's Walk will take place on November 4-7, 2021 with Deena Raynor serving as Lay Director. She is in contact with her previous team members as to who will be able to serve. Steven has also received emails that people have women pilgrims for a walk.

Steven made a motion to schedule a Team Selection on Friday June 18 or Saturday June 19. Discussion was offered and the motion was amended to having a Team Selection during the 3rd week of June. Rick seconded the motion and it passed.

Steven recommended we cancel the June Board meeting. Next Board meeting will be July 10, 2021 at 3:00. This meeting will be an in-person meeting.

During today's Gathering Steven will make a request to all members to help update the Reunion Group info as to times, place, contact person and any on-line info for the community.

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 \$31,840.23. Rick made a motion to approve the financial report. Harold seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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UPPER ROOM/ASST. SUPPORT – Rick has supplies to deliver to Mel. Our CCLI is due and Mel needs a copy of our insurance.

GATHERING SUPPORT – The May Gathering will take place today at Bethany UMC at 4:00 with a mixed in-person and live-stream showing. Cindy Dollar will deliver the 4th Day talk.

The July 10th Gathering will take place at Hope Presbyterian Church with the Gathering being in-person only.

Chuck is still working on host churches for the remaining 2021 Gatherings on 9/11/21 and 11/13/21.

REUNION GROUP/POC SUPPORT – Christian Nelson will add DEEWC to our current POC list. He will also be adding Google Maps with our member churches indicated on the map.

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

OLD BUSINESS – Kevin Reeves has agreed to serve on the 4th Day Team Selection committee however we still need one additional woman to serve. Steven will complete the paperwork for the merger of Eagles Wings and GAEC.

Christian Nelson closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 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

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

Desperate to Hear God

After my divorce in the late 1990's, I made the decision to move back to the Austin area where my daughter and new son-in-law lived and to reconnect with some of my college friends from my UT days. I had several teaching job offers and accepted a position at Leander High School teaching mathematics. Although it was a bit scary doing all this on my own, I was excited about the possibilities of new adventures. One of those was to look for and choose a church home that appealed to just me and my needs. After visiting a number of churches in the area, I started regularly attending Hope Presbyterian Church and felt at home.

Soon after I got moved and had begun my new school year, I was informed by my sister, a family practice doctor in Abilene, that our last living grandparent, our paternal grandmother, was nearing her transition from life in this world to eternal life with God. One early morning, I had a dream in which I saw my grandmother, Memo, standing in a brightly lit field of wildflowers. She had the most beautiful, bright smile on her face underneath the large brimmed hat she wore. It was as if her face was radiating light from within so that the wide brim of the hat could not cast a shadow. I woke up and wondered about that scene. I looked at the clock which showed it was 3:40 AM. I went back to sleep and awoke to my early alarm. Around 6:30 AM, my sister called to tell me our Memo had passed away early that morning. I immediately asked her what time it had been. She said it was at 3:40. Chills ran up and down my arms when I realized I had actually been given a glimpse of her going to heaven to be with Jesus! She had always been a strong believer and was confident that she would join Jesus when her time came. One other fact—the dress she was wearing in my dream was the one she had selected for her burial, which I had not known.

So what does this have to do with my Walk to Emmaus? Well, it happened to me at a time when I was desperate to hear God and to have a closer relationship with him. My dear friend, Ellen, began inviting me every year to go on the Walk to Emmaus. I don't remember how many times I responded I would go "next year", but in my mind, I was always too busy. I now know God had been working on me since that dream about my Memo and that when I finally did say "yes" to the Walk in 2006, I was more ready than I would have been before. When I say "ready," I mean I was trying to be strong and stay always positive even though I knew inside I was still very broken from my divorce and knew I needed help mending my brokenness.

I was childishly clueless about what would happen on the Walk. Everything that happened was new to me. Some of you will remember Connie Ruple, who attended Bethany and passed away during the past year. She was my table leader and was both kind and skillful in managing the diverse group of women at our Sarah table. My walk was quite full, with 36 pilgrims and a full team, so it was packed in so many ways. The talks came and went and I took lengthy notes. I am glad I did because later, I realized I had been in a fog most of the time I was at the Walk. The enormous, generous, warm love on that weekend overwhelmed me. More than once during the Walk, I was reduced to tears as I struggled to forgive myself for past hurt I had caused loved ones. I don't have to tell any one of you how incredibly difficult that is. Those tears came from overwhelming joy and thankfulness. I came away from my Walk with true affirmation of God's love for me and of the love of all those around me who love Him. I couldn't be more humbled and grateful.

De Colores,
Jo Peters

TESTIMONIES

Do you have testimonies or 4th Day experiences you would like to share with the community?

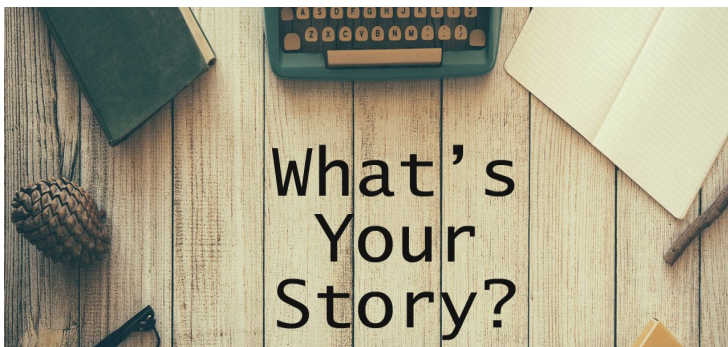
Perhaps a reflection on your spiritual life before you attended the Walk to Emmaus, or your spiritual journey since your Walk?

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!



Our Next Gathering July 10, 2021

GOOD NEWS!!! Our next gathering will be an in-person gathering on July 10, 2021 at Hope Presbyterian Church. The gathering will be at 6:15pm with the format for the gathering similar to what we have been doing for our past live stream gatherings. We will have songs before announcements and songs during worship. Communion bread will be handed to you by someone with gloves on their hands and you will eat the bread. Then you will pick up a plastic communion cup with grape juice, drink the grape juice, and put the plastic cup back in the communion tray. Masks are not required. The offering plate will be in the back of the room for you to place a cash or check offering. Wanda "Cricket" Howard will be the Fourth Day speaker. Bring your lanyards and purple books for the service since there will not be slides to view.

We will provide a reminder on the in-person gathering by MailChimp as we get closer to the July 10 date. We look forward to you attending the in person gathering at Hope Presbyterian Church!

Upcoming 2021 GAEC Emmaus Community Gatherings

September 11, 2021

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

November 13, 2021

Northwest Hills UMC
7050 Village Center Dr., Austin, TX 78731

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!

