



# WalkTalk Newsletter

February 2022

The Greater Austin Emmaus Community

Volume 33, Number 1

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## 2022 Walks at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center

Women's Walk: May 12 - 15, 2022

- \* Lay Director—Debbie Spurlock
- \* Board Representative—Chris McKemie
- \* Spiritual Director—Missy Jenson
- \* Servant Team Coordinator—Steven Scott

Men's Walk November 3 - 6, 2022

The cost of the weekend is \$240 and can be paid with a check or with a credit card for an additional fee of \$7.50 to cover the credit card processing fee. You can download pilgrim, sponsor, and church forms from the [austinemmaus.org](http://austinemmaus.org) website. Scholarships are available and forms are on the website.

## The Next Gathering is Saturday March 5 at Bethany UMC

Bethany is catering a taco bar with chicken or beef soft tacos or taco salad, refried beans, Spanish rice, and queso and chips with snickerdoodle cookie desert and drinks at 5:00 pm. We are requesting a love offering of \$7 to cover the food cost. Worship will be at 6:15 pm with prepackaged communion elements. An offering will be taken for the Emmaus Community. The fourth day speaker is Tre Cowan. Randy Nettles, our new music coordinator, will lead the Emmaus Praise Band. We look forward to seeing everyone and worshipping together.

## Fourth Day Speakers Needed



Would you like to give a Fourth Day talk at a Gathering? Fourth Day speakers are always needed! Please contact Steven Scott at [laydirector@austinemmaus.org](mailto:laydirector@austinemmaus.org) if you are interested.

## Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.



The above board meeting will be held at Bethany UMC



## 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

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



## End Of Life Faith

One of the things in living longer is you have parents that are elderly as well. All my parents are passed on to Heaven, but my wife Paula has her mom in a skilled nursing facility in Georgetown. She is 93 and has lost most of her hearing and because of diabetes has lost most of her sight. However, she had her mind and knew what was going on around her and had conversations with friends and family. We would take her out to eat at restaurants or come to our house for dinner on Sundays so she could get out of the facility and have spice in her life. We would have the great grandkids over to see her as well and that would brighten her day. We would have the great

grandkids give her a hug or kiss or for the great grandson a high five! I would often tell them that we do not know when she may go to heaven, so we must love on Gran now. That is what everybody calls Paula's mom is Gran.

Well before Thanksgiving, she had a urinary tract infection (UTI) that caused her to get very ill and to hallucinate things. She took the antibiotics and got over the infection, but she did not get her mind back. We visited her the beginning of December and her short term memory was about 15 minutes long. She could understand some of what you said but she was harder to communicate with. Of course, she could answer questions about things that happened 30 years ago in detail but not what someone brought her or who visited that day. We had the doctors check her out and they said she was getting worse and was not going to get any better. We prayed about it and put her in hospice care to give her more care than the skilled nursing facility could give her. Paula had her brothers visit her to be able to see her before she got worse. We visited her again and she was worse not knowing who my wife was and wanting just to sleep. She continues to not know who my wife or anyone is and mostly is just sleeping her days. She barely eats and drinks as well.

Paula has been upset as have others who knew her mom at the facility, that she is now on her way to passing. They all miss the relationship they had with her, but they know that she will go home to be with the Lord soon and have no pain or frustration from not being able to do anything. Before the UTI, Gran would say she never thought that she would live this long. She just lays in the bed most of the day because the past avid reader could not see to read anymore or watch or hear the TV because her hearing was so bad. Gran told Paula that she was ready to go home to Heaven. We feel God had answered her prayer to come home. The time is not yet. Paula has stated to me that she really has already gone now because she does not know who Paula is or what is going on and she just sleeps. We have prayed for God to start the time for Gran to go home, but we are ready any time he chooses. We are reminded by the scripture **John 14:1-3 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."**

Paula's cousin from Oklahoma was here at Christmas break to say goodbye to Gran. We had a discussion on when people pass on to Heaven. She told us she had asked a hospice worker who had seen many people pass on what the typical experience is like. The hospice worker said that her experience is for those that are coherent and believers in Jesus, they always raise their hands at the last breath to be taken by Jesus to Heaven. One person even spoke as he was passing "It is true!" I share this with you as you have had this experience, are going through this experience or are about to go through this experience so that you may be comforted in the knowledge that God is with you. Imagine what it is like for someone who is not a believer, and they have nothing to look forward to.

We are still requesting the Fourth Day community send TESTIMONIES of how the Walk to Emmaus has **changed** their life to put on a TESTIMONY page on the GAEC website. 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 the year now by sharing** and make a difference in the GAEC community on the new website. 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

Position	Name	Term Ends	Contact
Lay Director	Steven Scott	2022	<a href="mailto:LayDirector@austinemmaus.org">LayDirector@austinemmaus.org</a>
Assistant Lay Director	Dennis Perryman	2022	<a href="mailto:AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org">AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org</a>
Past Lay Director	Fred Widmer	2022	<a href="mailto:PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org">PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org</a>
Secretary	Harold Sundbeck	2023	<a href="mailto:Secretary@austinemmaus.org">Secretary@austinemmaus.org</a>
Treasurer	Rick Seifert	2023	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@austinemmaus.org">Treasurer@austinemmaus.org</a>
Upper Room Support	Mel Chambers	2022	<a href="mailto:UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org">UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org</a>
Assist Upper Room Support	Open	2023	<a href="mailto:AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org">AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org</a>
Communications Support	Candy Kyle	2024	<a href="mailto:Communications@austinemmaus.org">Communications@austinemmaus.org</a>
Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)	Jeanne Randall	2023	<a href="mailto:WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org">WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org</a>
Assistant Walk Support (Agape)	Jo Peters	2022	<a href="mailto:Agape@austinemmaus.org">Agape@austinemmaus.org</a>
Gathering Support	Open	2024	<a href="mailto:Gathering@austinemmaus.org">Gathering@austinemmaus.org</a>
Spiritual Director	Rev. Sylvester Chase	2022	<a href="mailto:SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org">SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org</a>
Team Selection Support	Tami Pharr	2022	<a href="mailto:TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org">TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org</a>
Reunion Group/POC Support	Open	2024	<a href="mailto:ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org">ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org</a>
Training Support	*Morgan Scher	2024	<a href="mailto:Training@austinemmaus.org">Training@austinemmaus.org</a>
Database/Website Support	Christian Nelson	2024	<a href="mailto:DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org">DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org</a>

Term Expiration 2022-4, 2023-4, & 2024-5 (\* indicates newly filled position)

Top three Directors expire every year. Officer roles and terms expire on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the above years.

### Non-Board Positions

Music Coordinator	*Randy Nettles	<a href="mailto:Music@austinemmaus.org">Music@austinemmaus.org</a>
Assistant Music Coordinator	Jesse Madera	<a href="mailto:AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org">AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org</a>
Registrar	Myles McKemie	<a href="mailto:Registrar@austinemmaus.org">Registrar@austinemmaus.org</a>
Website Developer	Eric Bursley	<a href="mailto:WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org">WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org</a>
WalkTalk Editor	Candy Kyle	<a href="mailto:Communications@austinemmaus.org">Communications@austinemmaus.org</a>

### 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!



#### **Financial Statement**

*as of 1/21/22*

#### **Bank Balance**

**\$27,508.53**

#### **Scholarship Fund**

**\$3625.62**

### GAEC Website

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

### GAEC Facebook page

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



## The Purpose of Bifocals

I am participating in a neighborhood women's bible study for the next six weeks. It's a newly published study by Lisa Terkeurst entitled Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament: He's Never Absent, We're Never Alone.

I've only done 2 weeks' worth of homework, but the study is already blessing me beyond what I expected.

One of the concepts in the study is that our spiritual lives can resemble a pair of bifocal glasses. I must admit that I'm at that stage of my life where I need bifocal contacts. Sometimes I even need to supplement the contacts with a pair of reading glasses. The purpose of bifocals is to be able to see things that are far away but also see things that are up close.

Spiritual bifocal lenses give us the opportunity to see Jesus in areas of our life in which we are knee-deep and covered in muck. Yet, we can also see Jesus in areas of our life that may be further removed from what we're dealing with that very minute or that day.

Jesus never leaves us. We're never alone. He's never absent.

Spiritual bifocals can also give us an opportunity to stay encouraged in seasons of waiting. How many times have each of us prayed for specific things? Perhaps it's healing of a loved one. Perhaps it's a new job opportunity. Perhaps it's restoration of a damaged relationship. While we cry out to the Lord, we can remain joyful and steadfast because we intentionally keep our vision focused on Jesus as we wait for answered prayers.

How does all this relate to The Walk To Emmaus? Or how does this relate to my personal experience on my walk as a pilgrim? It's an interesting metaphor. When I went on my Walk, I wasn't in the bifocal stage of my life yet (old!). I was raised in a Christian home, had gone to church every Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night and whenever else the doors were open. I was blessed to attend a private Christian high school and was immersed in several years of New Testament and Old Testament classes. I attended Baylor University where again, I was required to take several years of theology.

So, it's safe to say that while I wouldn't want to appear prideful in my biblical knowledge, I agreed to go on my Walk thinking I may not learn anything new, as I pretty much knew it all!

Oh, how the Lord laughed at that. As we all know, no matter where we are in our spiritual journey, the Lord always has something to reveal to us during that sweet weekend. For me, I had a couple of bifocal moments. I was able to release something during the weekend that was negatively affecting my relationship with my husband. I was bitter at our financial circumstances at the time and felt resentment toward him. This was something that I was dealing with daily – it was my muck that I referred to earlier.

Yet, I was also reminded about something that conceptually I knew, but with which I hadn't experienced. I always had knowledge of the depth and breadth of God's love toward me but had never EXPERIENCED it. So, something that I could see distantly, and have distant knowledge of, I was able to experience that weekend. I think that's the perfect example of Spiritual Bifocals.

Finally, my prayer each day as I go through this bible study is this. Would you consider praying this every day as well? To put on your spiritual bifocals?

I want to see You...I want to hear You...I want to know You...Everyday...How can I illuminate that outward?

De Colores,

Tami Pharr



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

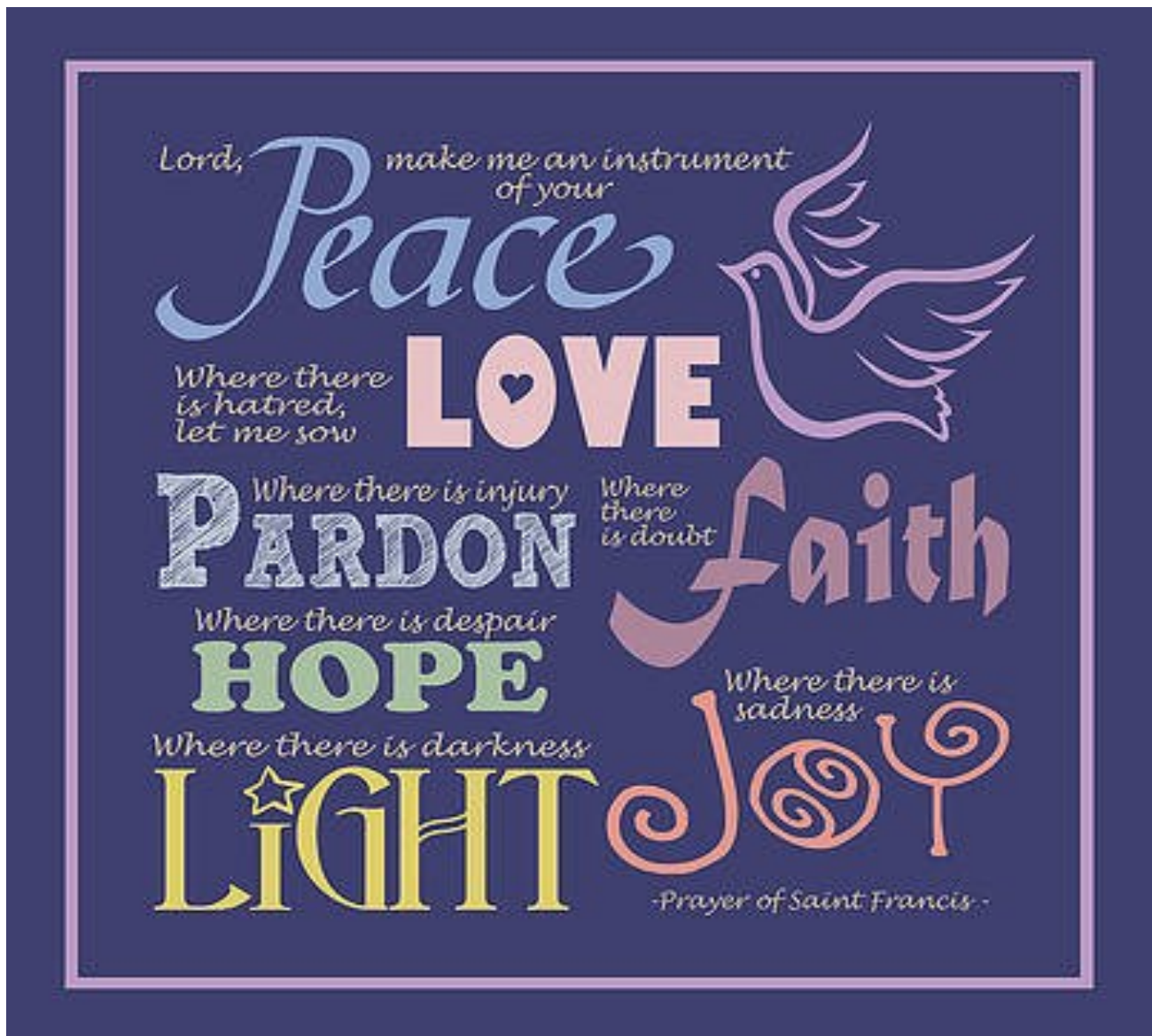
WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

## Our Last Gathering November 13, 2021

Our last gathering was an in-person gathering on November 13, 2021 at Northwest Hills UMC.

The gathering was at 6:15 pm with the format for the gathering similar to what we have been doing for our past live stream gatherings.

We had songs before announcements and songs during worship. Communion was a pre-pack set. Mike Carmagnola was the Fourth Day speaker and we enjoyed his testimony. This was Mike's last gathering as music coordinator since he has sold his house and is traveling Europe for the next year. Mike, the Greater Austin Emmaus Community thanks you for your service to the community and enjoy seeing Europe with your new adventures!



## GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2021

The November Board Meeting was held in person and by call-in.

The following members were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Rick Seifert, Treasurer; Mel Chambers (called in), Upper Room Support; Candy Kyle, Communications Support; Christian Nelson, Database/Website Support; and Tami Pharr, Team Selection.

**Quorum:** Six 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 July 10, 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 has current opening for Training Support, Gathering Support and Assistant Upper Room Support. Steven is praying about and contacting people for these positions. We are still in need of a permanent back-up for Treasurer. Steven cancelled the November's Women's Walk #147 per the Board vote, and the deposit has been transferred to our first Walk in 2022. Steven has preliminarily reserved all the 2022 Walk dates before they were taken. Steven made a motion to have a Women's Walk on May 12-15 and Men's Walk on November 3-6 at Eagles Wings Retreat Center. Christian seconded the motion and the vote passed. The next Board meeting will be January 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom due to Austin returning to Stage 5 Covid restrictions. 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 Serifert submitted the Treasurer's report by email. His report indicated the Frost Bank balance reconciled with the Aplos balance of \$29,351.64. Mel made a motion to approve the financial report. Tami seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Upper Room/Asst. Support:** Mel will confirm Spiritual Directors training date and is requesting Board to send him suggestions by email for dealing with Covid concerns/restrictions for our upcoming Walks.

**Database/Website Support:** We have returned Kristen's Dropbox to her and we now have our own Dropbox account. Rick will provide the link to our Dropbox account. Christian will work with the Database/Walk template committee for our 2022 Walks. Christian will update the Pilgrim forms and has Wordpress website info. Lauren will help train Rick and Christian on Wordpress and website. Candy discussed that we need to update the database for WalkTalk and Mailchimp.

**Gathering Support:** The November Gathering will be today at NW Hills UMC at 6:15 pm. At this time the January Gathering has been canceled due to Austin back to Stage 5 Covid Restrictions.

Additional Gathering dates for 2022 are 3/5, 5/21, 7/16, 9/17, and 11/12.

**New Business:** Steven will work on updating the By-Laws in the future.

**Old Business:** We still need one additional old Eagles Wings 4th Day woman to serve on the team selection committee. Steven will complete the paperwork for the merger of Eagles Wings and GAEC. Candy and Steven will update the Agape Community Letter. WalkTalk Articles—Steven and Tami will provide for January.

Tami Pharr closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 4:38pm.

**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 November 13, 2021.