



WalkTalk Newsletter

May 2022

The Greater Austin Emmaus Community

Volume 34, Number 12

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by Steven Scott - Lay Director

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2022 Walks at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center

Women's Walk: Postponed to November 3-6, 2022

* Lay Director—Debbie Spurlock * Board Representative—Chris McKemie

* Spiritual Director—Missy Jenson * Servant Team Coordinator—Steven Scott

Men's Walk: Next Men's Walk will be in 2023

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 website. Scholarships are available and forms are on the website.

The Next Gathering is Saturday May 21 at NW Hills UMC

NW Hills is catering sub sandwiches, pasta salad, chips 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 communion elements. An offering will be taken for the Emmaus Community. The fourth day speaker is Phyllis Smith. Randy Nettles will lead the Emmaus Praise Band.

We look forward to seeing everyone before the start of summer 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 if you are interested.

Next GAEC Board Meetings

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.



The above board meeting will be held at
NW Hills 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.



Emmaus - It is What You Make it

If you remember back past the pandemic in my first article as Community Lay Director on 3/2020, I wrote that the vision the Lord had given me for my term as Lay Director was a theme of "Reignite the Fire." I quoted the scripture 1 John 1:6-7 "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." I reminded everyone of the story of taking out a log from a fire and the log goes dim and then dark by itself. However, when the log is placed back in the fire with other logs it reignites and turns red hot with light.

Before the pandemic, we were coming together as a community with people from various churches across the Austin area coming to the gatherings and we were having around a hundred at the gatherings. We had to cancel 2 gatherings because of Covid. Then in an effort to keep the fourth day connected to the community, we started doing live stream gatherings at Lake Travis UMC 9/12/2020, Hope Presbyterian 11/21/2020, First UMC Pflugerville 1/9/2021, and Lake Travis UMC 3/13/2021. Then as Covid took a pause, we had a live stream and in-person gathering at Bethany UMC 5/15/2021 followed by an in-person gathering at Hope Presbyterian on 7/10/2021. We had an in-person gathering at NW Hills UMC 11/13/2021 with about 25 in attendance. Then Omicron broke out and we cancelled the January 2022 gathering. We held the Bethany UMC gathering 3/5/2022 and we had about 25 in attendance.

We had Women's Walk #147 scheduled for 5/14-17/2020 which we moved to 7/30-8/2/2020 and then cancelled with the Covid pandemic. We cancelled Women's Walk #148 that was scheduled for 11/5-8/2020. We then reformed the Women's Walk #147 for 3/18-21/2021 and was moved to 11/4-7/2021 with the ongoing Covid pandemic. Finally, we had to cancel the Women's Walk #147 due to Covid. Men's Walk #146 scheduled for 6/10-13/2021 and Women's Walk #148 scheduled for 11/4-7/2021 were cancelled due to the ongoing Covid. We had started a new Women's Walk #148 scheduled for 5/12-15/2022 but it was postponed since we did not have enough pilgrims. The new date for the Women's Walk #148 is 11/3-6/2022 so the community has additional time to sponsor more pilgrims.

I run through all the history of gatherings and Walks over the last 2 1/2 years so you can see that the GAEC Board has been trying to keep the Emmaus movement alive in the Austin area and to support the Fourth Day community during the Covid pandemic. However, the Austin area is at a crossroads about what is going to happen with Emmaus. Emmaus is a volunteer organization that NEEDS YOU to participate in it to make it work. WE NEED YOU to come to gatherings, be involved in reunion groups, and sponsor pilgrims for Walks. Remember your Walk to Emmaus for a moment. Close your eyes and remember. Did you feel God's love and change your relationship with him? Did you give something to God that you needed to give to him to reduce your burden in life? Did you change from that experience in your spiritual journey? Did you get involved in some new ministry at your church? If the answer to any of those questions is yes, then would you like to pass on that experience to someone else so that they may experience God's love and a spiritual change in their life as well?

We need to remember that we need to be in community to support each other. We need to stay involved in Emmaus by being in a reunion group, coming to gatherings, and sponsoring pilgrims for walks to share what we experienced on our own Walk. All of these are ways to fellowship with one another in the light of God! We need to talk to the people that we know at our churches to come back to Emmaus and get involved again. Do not let the Covid pandemic and the Devil separate you from God and fellowship with Christians! WE NEED YOU as part of the community, WE NEED YOU to share fellowship of the light with each other, and WE NEED YOU to spread God's light to others through the Walk to Emmaus weekend! You can start this Saturday 5/22 at the gathering at NW Hills UMC with food at 5pm and worship at 6:15pm. You can also sponsor women on the Women's Walk #148 November 3-6, 2022. EMMAUS IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT!

Footnote: In my last Lay Director article 2/2022 End Of Life Faith, I told you that we were waiting for Gran, my mother-in-law, to go home to Heaven. We feel God has answered her prayers and all of the family's prayers to bring her home last Friday 5/13/2022. God has brought home a good and faithful servant. Praise God! 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	LayDirector@austinemmaus.org
Assistant Lay Director	Dennis Perryman	2022	AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org
Past Lay Director	Fred Widmer	2022	PastLayDirector@austinemmaus.org
Secretary	Harold Sundbeck	2023	Secretary@austinemmaus.org
Treasurer	Rick Seifert	2023	Treasurer@austinemmaus.org
Upper Room Support	Mel Chambers	2022	UpperRoom@austinemmaus.org
Assist Upper Room Support	Open	2023	AssistUpperRoom@austinemmaus.org
Communications Support	Open	2024	Communications@austinemmaus.org
Walk Support (Sign-up/Trailer)	Jeanne Randall	2023	WalkSignups@austinemmaus.org
Assistant Walk Support (Agape)	Jo Peters	2022	Agape@austinemmaus.org
Gathering Support	Open	2024	Gathering@austinemmaus.org
Spiritual Director	Rev. Sylvester Chase	2022	SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org
Team Selection Support	Tami Pharr	2022	TeamSelection@austinemmaus.org
Reunion Group/POC Support	Open	2024	ReunionPOC@austinemmaus.org
Training Support	*Morgan Scher	2024	Training@austinemmaus.org
Database/Website Support	Christian Nelson	2024	DatabaseWebsite@austinemmaus.org

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 31st of the above years.

Non-Board Positions

Music Coordinator	*Randy Nettles	Music@austinemmaus.org
Assistant Music Coordinator	Jesse Madera	AssistMusic@austinemmaus.org
Registrar	Myles McKemie	Registrar@austinemmaus.org
Website Developer	Eric Bursley	WebsiteDeveloper@austinemmaus.org
WalkTalk Editor	Open	Communications@austinemmaus.org

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 3/31/22

Bank Balance

\$27,140.09

Scholarship Fund

\$3625.61

GAEC Website

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

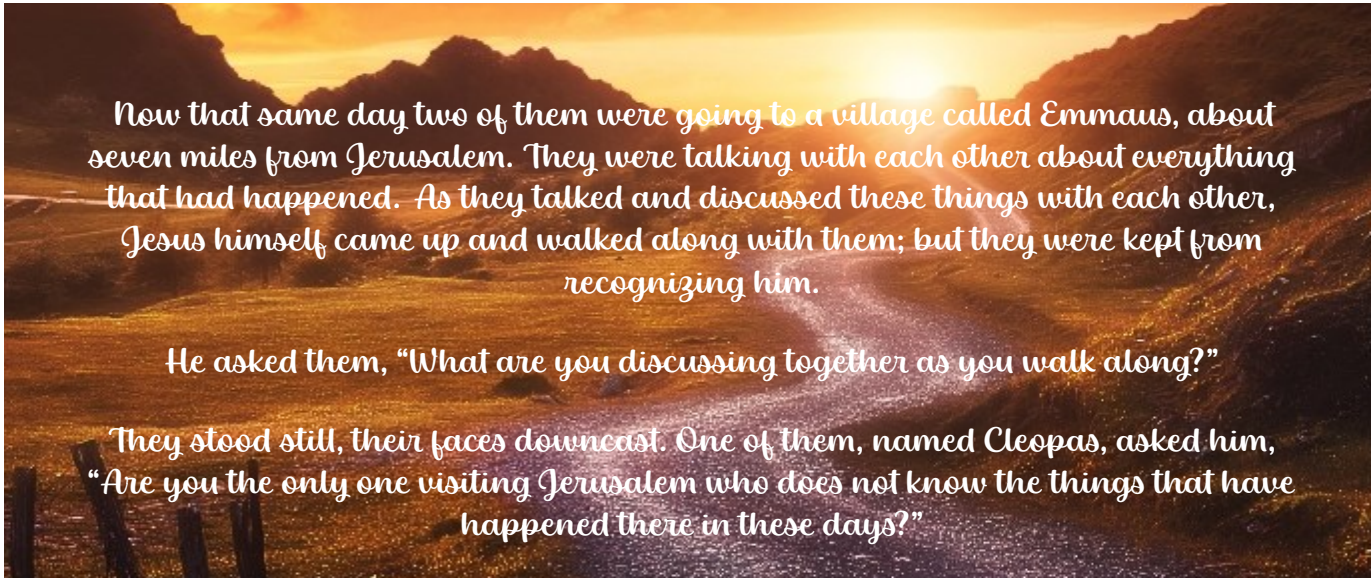
GAEC Facebook page

www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterAustinEmmaus/

Our Last Gathering November 13, 2021

Our last Gathering was an in-person gathering on March 5 at Bethany UMC. Bethany catered a great taco bar with beef and chicken tacos, Spanish rice, refried beans, taco salad, chips, queso, snickerdoodle cookies and drinks at 5:00PM. The worship was at 6:15pm with the format for the gathering similar to what we have been doing.

We had songs before announcements and songs during worship. Communion was either a pre-pack set or bread and grape juice. Tre Cowan was the Fourth Day speaker, and we enjoyed his testimony. This was Randy Nettles first time as the music coordinator since Mike Carmagnola left for Europe. Randy and the praise band provided an amazing worship service! Thank you to everyone who worked on the Gathering.



Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"



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

Communications@austinemmaus.org

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

GAEC Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2022

The March Board Meeting was held in person at Bethany UMC & called to order at 3:15 PM.

The following members were present: Steven Scott, Lay Director; Harold Sundbeck, Secretary; Rick Seifert, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Support; Jo Peters, Assist. Walk Support (Agape); Rev. Sylvester Chase, Spiritual Director.

Quorum: Six Board members were present providing a quorum for the meeting.

Steven opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Minutes: The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on January 21, 2022 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 three openings on the Board presently: Gathering Support, Assistant Upper Room Support and Reunion Group/POC Support. Steven is praying about & contacting people for these positions. We are still in need of a permanent back-up for Treasurer. Rick indicated he would help with the search for someone to assist him. Women's Walk #148 had their first team meeting today. Currently there is one Pilgrim signed up for the Walk. Steven has assembled the Team Training folders for the LD/ALD, Board Representative, SD/ASD, and TL/ATL positions. Training was performed at the Team Meeting this morning. Steven suggested a new format to provide info quickly for the 4th Day community on the first page of the WalkTalk. Candy Kyle did a great job of reworking the WalkTalk to a fresh new look with the February WalkTalk! The next Board meeting will be May 21, 2022 at 1:00 at Northwest Hills UMC with the Welcome Back to take place at 2:30 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Rick Seifert submitted the Treasure's report indicating the Frost Bank balance reconciled with the Aplos balance of \$26,792.78. Rick made the motion to accept the report and Mel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upper Room/Asst. Support: Mel had the Upper Room Covenant and Steven will sign.

Database/Website Support: Steven will discuss with Christian the need to work on the new Walk Templates for 2022 Walks.

Walk/Assist. Walk Support: Steven reported that Jeanne stated the sign-up list has been updated to match what we have on-hand and our current needs for Walks.

Gathering Support: Bethany UMC is hosting today's Gathering. A taco bar with beef and chicken will be available with all the sides beginning at 5:00 PM. Worship will be at 6:15 PM with Tre Cowan giving the 4th Day Talk.

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

The Welcome Back for the Women's Walk is 5/21 and the Men's Walk is 11/12 both at the Gathering.

Team Selection Support: The Lay Director for Women's Walk #148 is Debbie Spurlock and the Spiritual Director is Missy Jenson. We still need another musician/vocalist, an ATL and a Board Rep since Chris McKemie needs to drop out due to knee surgery prior to the Walk date.

New Business: Steven will continue to work on updating the By-Laws.

Old Business: Nancy Napolitano was nominated to be the Women's 4th Day Team Selection Member from the old Eagles Wings Community however she did not attend the meeting, nor has she contacted us. Rick will check on status.

Steven will contact Jeanne, Dennis and Morgan about providing articles for the next WalkTalk

Pastor Chase closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

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 May 17, 2022.