



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



July, 2007

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 18, Number 7

Several Modest Proposals

As I begin my term as GAE4DG Lay Director, I think of one of the messages that I took away with me from my Walk – “God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called”. This has been a tremendously freeing message for me in the Emmaus movement and led to my involvement in the Stephen Ministry, about as far from my past experience as possible.

As I welded up the racks for storage on our new Walk Trailer, I was reminded, however, that I am not equipped for everything. We need volunteers with sewing skills to step up and provide some of the talk banners for the trailer. Six of the fifteen are spoken for, and we need for the nine others to be “adopted”. If you have moderate sewing skills and would be willing to provide one or more, please contact Kathy Shaw (kathyshaw@swbell.net). Kathy has specifications and pictures and assures me that they are relatively non complex and should not provide much of a challenge. I will take her at her word on this! The other needs for the trailer were circulated at the June Gathering and will be circulated at the July Gathering (Pflugerville First UMC on July 12th). Additionally, we have had donated to us a set of communion rails that could be cut down and modified for our usage. Therefore, we need someone with woodworking skills to modify these into two kneelers for inclusion in the trailer. Contact Kathy also for this opportunity to serve.

The expansion of the Emmaus movement into other communities of God’s children is wondrous to behold. In addition to *Chrysalis* and *Kairos*, we have *Epiphany*. *Epiphany* is the three day weekend for incarcerated youth. At the August Gathering (Manchaca UMC), we will hear a brief presentation by Tammy Christopher of the Houston North Emmaus Community. She is the Lay Director for the upcoming Epiphany #10 at the Giddings State School in Giddings, Texas. Tammy will be available after the service to distribute brochures and information. I cannot think of a community where the love of Christ is more needed and perhaps more unknown. Please join me in welcoming Tammy in August.

As I write this, we are experiencing rains reported as “of Biblical proportion.” As a rancher, I don’t think there can ever be too much rain, but..... However, aren’t the rains magnificent, and an incredible blessing that somehow fit into God’s plan? I may never understand His plan, but as I repair my roads and fences, it is enough to know that “GOD is Good – All the time”.



De Colores
Bud Broeker, Lay Director
Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2007/2008 Board of Directors and Volunteers

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Visit the Greater Austin Emmaus
4th Day Group Website:
<http://www.austinemmaus.org>



**The Walk Talk Deadline has been moved to the
25th of every month!!**

The Walk Talk Deadline for August is July 25th!

Please send your articles, 4th Day Stories, and reflections to
Gina Franklin 12905 Irongate Ave., Austin, TX 78727;
or email to rts@austin.rr.com

Were You There?

There were **93** attendees at the June Gathering!
Have you been going to the monthly Gathering?
Why not?!?!?
They are normally on the first Thursday of each
month. Childcare is available at all Gatherings!
Check out the schedule on page 7!

We'll be looking for you!

2007 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk #1387
Highland Lakes

Sept. 6 – 9

Dale Williams, Lay Director
David Payne, Spiritual Director
Bud Broeker, Board Rep.

Women's Walk #1409
Highland Lakes

Nov. 15 – 18

Nancy Minchew, Lay Director
Cindy Layton, Spiritual Director
Sherry Wilkison, Board Rep.



But as for me and my household,
we will serve the LORD.
- Joshua 24:15, NIV



Thank You, Gail!

We would like to thank Gail Gourley for faithfully serving the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group. Thank You!

Gail Gourley, Walk 53A, Martha Table... Where do I begin? It has almost been 20 years since I went on my Walk to Emmaus in August of 1987! "Back then" nearly all of the Gatherings were held at Crestview UMC and the music team consisted of a guitar player/singer and sometimes a 2nd singer. We sang from hand typed and copied song sheets. I know there are a few of you out there who remember those days - when the entire Community directory would fit on three to four 8-1/2 x 11 sheets of paper, and cell phones and email weren't even in the picture!

I have had the honor and privilege of serving as Lay Director for Walk 491, as well as the Greater Austin Emmaus Lay Director for 2000-01. While serving as the GAEC Lay Director in Training in '99, we began the GAEC Email list, which at that time consisted of an email group in my Outlook address book with only a handful of people even having email. We also created our website that year. You know what they say when you have an idea! Luckily, I am married to a high-tech web savvy guy (who had email before most of the world had ever heard of it) who helped me learn how to put together a website since I knew absolutely nothing about how to do it. I couldn't have done it without you Kevin! We were among the first Emmaus Communities in the SW Texas Conference to have a website, and at one time, our site was the sole online source for Walk schedules and registration forms in the SW Texas Conference!

After 8 years as the GAE Electronic Communications Coordinator, I will be handing over the reigns to Rob Turk. It is time for us to move our website and electronic communications forward, taking advantage of current technologies in order to provide more valuable tools and resources for you. Rob comes to you with experience and skills that will help us do just that! Please welcome him on board as we begin the transition process.

In closing, I thank you all for the opportunities and blessings I have had in serving our Fourth Day Group and for all of the wonderful people who I have had the opportunity to work with along the way!

Grace & peace, Gail Gourley



Welcome, Rob!

We are excited to announce the appointment of our new Website Administrator, Rob Turk. Rob went on Walk # 1316 and was at the St. Matthew's Table. He is a member of Crestview UMC where he also serves as the website coordinator for their site (<http://www.crestviewumc.org>). Rob works in the software industry and has been involved in the development of web technologies since 1995.

We look forward to the new changes in store for the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Website

(<http://www.austinemmaus.org>).

Here is Rob's contact information:

Rob Turk

robturk@gmail.com

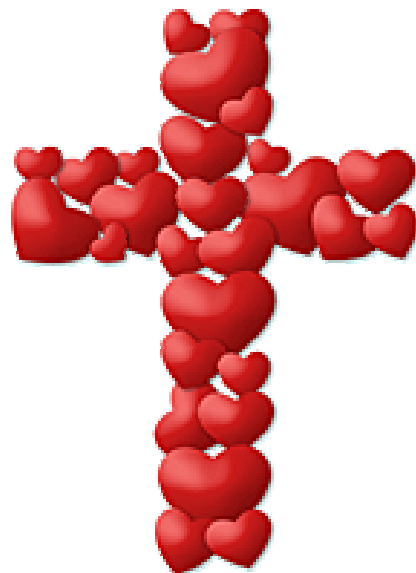
Planned 2008 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk	March 6 – 9	Gene McConnell, Lay Director	Highland Lakes
Women's Walk	May 1 – 4	Ann Rioux, Lay Director	Highland Lakes
Men's Walk	Sept. 11 – 14	Randy Nettles, Lay Director	Highland Lakes
Women's Walk	Sept. 25 – 28	Brenda Smith, Lay Director	Highland Lakes

Emmaus Leadership Training Sessions

To register for an Emmaus Leadership Training Event please go to www.swtxumc.org/emmaus or contact Emmaus Register at Emmaus@umcswtx.org

Date	Location	Area
July 7	First UMC 902 Main	Junction
August 4	First UMC 37 East Beauregard Ave	San Angelo
August 11	First UMC 500 East Pecan St.	Pflugerville
September 22	First UMC 900 S. Shoreline Blvd.	Corpus Christi
October 6	John Wesley UMC 8300 NE Zac Lentz Pkwy	Victoria
November 10	Harlingen: Wesly UMC 1406 E. Austin Ave	Valley



Chrysalis News 2007

All youth who are currently in 9th - 12th grades are invited to attend a Chrysalis retreat - fun, food, fellowship, friends and fantastic worship!

The Austin Community is sponsoring these Flights this summer:

**July 12-15: Boys' Flight # 290 at Twin Oaks in Buda,
Lay Director: Joel Roehling; Cost: \$140**

**Aug. 2-4: Girls' Flight # 295 at Twin Oaks in Buda,
Lay Director: Debbie Sandifer; Cost: \$140**

Registration forms are posted on the SWTX Conference and Greater Austin Emmaus Community websites, or you may contact one of the Lay Directors or any member of the Chrysalis Next Steps Group. Scholarships are available!

If you have any questions about the Flights,
please contact Jennifer Kendrick, 241-1455 or jhkendrick@austin.rr.com

Fly with Christ!



A Prayer for Christian Education

Gracious and Merciful Father, who in wisdom created the world and all that lives, enlighten the hearts and minds of your faithful people to continually call on You for divine guidance in all that is said and done in your Name.

Fill your faithful people with the desire and passion to reach out to those who still do not call upon You in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Open the hearts of those who rejoice in the salvation won through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Your Son, to support the teaching of your Word at all Christian colleges.

Look with favor on those who teach and those who learn. Give both teachers and students patience to receive your special gifts of wisdom, knowledge and understanding as they live out their life's journey. Lead your people to respond to the great need to teach what we believe and confess in your Name so that multitudes may come to know You as the Lord of Life.

Revitalize our hearts, create in us a thankful spirit and open our hands to generously share your bounty. Strengthen our faith to trust in your mercy and your promise of life and salvation, now and forever. Amen.

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

HOW TO SPONSOR OTHERS

This is taken from DAY FOUR: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey

1. Pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a walk.
2. Make an appointment with the person or couple for the purpose of discussing their participation in Emmaus.
3. Extend an invitation. Invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just a weekend to go on. Share your faith; explain the basic elements of the walk, its purpose and follow up dimensions which help us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Have the attitude that you are giving them a wonderful gift rather than that they need to go.
4. Ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both spouses.
5. Continue to pray, prepare agape letters, enlist the support of their pastor. Collect eight to twelve personal agape letters. Do not ask the team to deliver personal gifts during the weekend.
6. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72 hour prayer vigil and your presence at the send off, sponsors hour, Candlelight, and Closing. Support the Pilgrim's family by house sitting, babysitting, and watering plants, picking up the mail, feeding pets or just checking in with the spouse to see if any help is needed.
7. Encourage the Pilgrim in his or her Fourth day involvement. Give your friend an opportunity to talk through and appropriate the experience. Help them find a group. Or, be prepared to start a group with him or her for a period of time until they find others to be in the group. Take them to Gatherings as your guest for a couple of months.
8. Help the pilgrim reenter their Church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
9. Inform the Pilgrim of how he or she can serve the Emmaus community and future walks.
10. Help the Pilgrim sponsor others.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the Pilgrims, for the Emmaus Community, and for the church. It is a demonstration of agape love. It is making oneself an instrument of prevenient Grace.

It is recommended by the Upper Room and the SWTC Emmaus Registrar that recent Walk to Emmaus attendees wait 6 months before sponsoring their first Pilgrim. It is also recommended by the SWTC Emmaus Registrar that a Sponsor should sponsor no more than one to two pilgrims on a single Walk.

<http://www.swtxumc.org/emmaus/Sponsor's%20Corner/GUIDEFORSNORSORS.pdf>

4th Day Chat

article by Gina Franklin

The Emmaus Reunion Group is a small accountability group of two to six persons who have usually participated in the three-day Walk to Emmaus and who want to continue their pursuit of a life lived wholly in the grace of God. (<http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/fourthday/piety>)

What happens when you can not find a reunion group that matches your schedule? How about starting a new group? There may be several in your church or in the community that may be in the same boat and would like to join.

Starting a new reunion group is as easy as asking a friend to meet. My reunion group was started by a friend and I. We met a couple of times before one more joined, then another and now we are a full group of wonderful supportive friends.

Here are a few tips when Starting a Group:

- Be regular and meet weekly,
- Limit the meetings to one hour to keep it focused,
- Focus on the service card,
- Be open and friendly,
- Respect confidentiality, and
- List the group with the community so others can join.

If you need help getting a new reunion group started, invite your sponsor or another friend, that is already in a group, to give an overview of the service sheet or organizing of the group. Reunion groups are a blessing to it's members.

If any member would like to contribute some of the great happenings in your group, important group anniversaries, or fantastic community outreach, please email me at rts@austin.rr.com. Contributions can be anonymous or you can promote the group's name and meeting time.

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, June 14, 2007 at Oak Hill UMC. In attendance were: Bud Broeker, Lay Director; Georgia Stone, Spiritual Director; Leslie Smith, Assistant Lay Director; Kathy Shaw, Board Rep; Tonna Marcyes, Board Member for Walk Support; Jack Foreman, Board Member for Gathering Support; Wayne Roche, Board Member for Member Support; Mike Rhodes, Treasurer; David Weaver, Chrysalis Rep

Bud Broeker called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Georgia Stone offered an opening prayer.

Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2007 meeting was approved. (Mike Rhodes motion, Tonna Marcyes second)

Treasurer – Mike Rhodes presented the current treasurers report as follows:

	General	Scholarship	Mailing
Balance as of May 21, 2007	\$7372.53	\$708.63	\$2500
Refund			\$2500
Balance as of June 14, 2007	\$7372.53	\$708.63	

At the March 19 Board meeting it was decided to continue to give Chrysalis 10% of the Gathering offering and also \$100 when they host Gathering. These funds had not been transferred after Chrysalis hosted the May Gathering. Also, the 10% due Chrysalis from each Gathering offering is to be paid retroactively for the June 2006-May 2007 Gatherings. Mike will arrange for the funds to be paid to Chrysalis. Mike will also arrange to be sure that 10% of the Gathering offering will be placed in the Scholarship account.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was approved.

Board Representative – Kathy Shaw reported that the request to change the dates for the January Women's Walk has been approved and the Walk will now be May 1-4, 2008. Anne Rioux will be the Lay Director. The GAE4DG sponsored Walks for 2008 are as follows:

	Lay Director	Board Rep
March 6-9	Gene McConnell	Wayne Roche
May 1-4	Anne Rioux	Tonna Marcyes
Sept. 11-14	Belinda Smith	TBA
Sept. 25-28	Randy Nettles	TBA

Georgia Stone will begin contacting clergy to serve as Spiritual Directors for these Walks. All the Walks will be held at Highland Lakes.

Kathy also announced that the Local Lay Director orientation will be held August 11 from 9:00 – 1:00 at Pflugerville First UMC. All lay directors and board reps should attend. Those interested in possibly serving as a lay director in the future are also invited.

Kathy reported that the SWTC Emmaus Community is designing a team application form that will be very similar to the one used by GAE. SWTC wants to set up a team service database to assist smaller 4th Day Groups in filling teams for their Walks. Because their system is not yet in place, GAE will continue to use our own team/volunteer application for now.

Chrysalis – David Weaver reported that the Girls Chrysalis scheduled for June had to be canceled. There will be a Boys Chrysalis on July 13-16 and a Girls Chrysalis on Aug. 2-4. Both will be at Twin Oaks in Buda. David encouraged everyone to talk to the youth directors/youth at their churches to sign up for Chrysalis. The Chrysalis Board will meet on June 19.

Lay Director – Trailer – Bud Broeker reported the metal is cut for the shelves and the shelves should be built soon. Kathy reported that FUMC Pflugerville has some extra kneeling rails they may donate to GAE; we would need to have a woodworker cut them down to make them portable. The PFUMC Trustees will discuss gifting the rails to GAE at their next meeting. Kathy also has a list of needed supplies for the trailer. There was discussion about renting the trailer to other 4th Day Groups, but it was decided that after it is stocked, we will wait several months to see how it is working out before considering rental.

Bud also discussed team service. He suggested that during team selection we be very deliberate to help lay director candidates get the required experience.

E-mail votes may sometimes be needed by the Board and it was decided the process is acceptable. One example is approving the Board Meeting minutes so they can be published in the Walk Talk in a timely manner. The minutes will be sent to all Board members to garner input and corrections; then an e-mail vote will be taken to approve the minutes. Wayne Roche motion, Tonna Marcyes second.

Board Member/Member Services – Wayne Roche presented another draft of the proposed postcard. Wayne also presented a proposal to set up a data base where individuals could enter team applications online. Individuals could update their data online which will make it easier to keep the team data base current. If people do not have internet access, they will still be able to send in a hard copy team application. He had obtained a bid proposal for development of the data base for \$1820. After discussion it was approved to develop the online application process. (Mike Rhodes motion, Tonna Marcyes second)

Wayne also reported that Gail Gourley would like someone to take over maintaining the web site. This would only require a few updates. It will be announced at Gathering.

Board Member/Gathering Support – Jack Foreman announced the July Gathering will be at Pflugerville UMC and Gene McConnell will be the speaker. August Gathering will be at Manchaca UMC but he does not have a speaker scheduled yet.

Board Member/Walk Support – no report.

New business – Houston North Emmaus Community has requested time at the August 2007 Gathering to speak about an upcoming Epiphany, a program similar to Chrysalis but held for incarcerated youth. It was agreed to let them speak for about five minutes at the Gathering.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15, followed by a closing prayer by Bud Broeker.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Smith

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Singing at 7:00 p.m., Worship at 7:30 p.m., Agape Feast Following

July

Thursday, July 5, 2007
First UMC, Pflugerville
500 East Pecan Street
Speaker: Gene McConnell

November

Thursday, November 1, 2007
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill Road
Speaker: Chrysalis

August

Thursday, August 2, 2007
Manchaca UMC
FM 1626 & Manchaca Rd.
Speaker: TBA

December

Thursday, December 6, 2007
Simpson UMC
1701 E. 12th Street
Speaker: TBA

September

Thursday, September 6, 2007
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road
Speaker: Nancy Karr

January 2008

Thursday, January 3, 2008
Hyde Park UMC
4001 Speedway
Speaker: TBA

October

Thursday, October 4, 2007
Tarrytown UMC
2601 Exposition
Speaker: Carey Dietert

Reminder: Childcare Services are
available at all Gatherings.

For directions click on Church Links at
<http://www.austinemmaus.org>