



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



August, 2012

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 23, Number 8

A word from the Lay Director

Wow, where has the summer gone? We are quickly moving toward the fall walks. Are you ready?

As with all walks, the teams have been meeting, prayers have been said and preparations are in the works. All the work is being done and will be completed. All we need is you, the Austin Walk Community!

FIRST of all, we need PILGRIMS! There are folks out there that have previously expressed an interest in going on a walk. What they need is a reminder of the upcoming walks and someone who will ask them if they are ready. Others may never have been spoken to about a walk. So talk it up and share with everyone what your walk meant to you!

SECOND: We always need SPONSORS! Without sponsors, we do not have pilgrims. Ask your friends if they need a sponsor.

THIRD: We need to be EXCITED about the upcoming walks and how they are used by God to change believers into the men and women they we are called to be. Be part of the excitement!!!

FOURTH: VOLUNTEER your time to work on the servant team, to bring agape, to attend gatherings and anything else that needs to be done to make the next walks the best ones ever! If you do not know what the needs are, speak to someone on the Board or on the upcoming teams, especially the outside team coordinator. They can always use more help!

FIFTH: Did you know that in many cases, pilgrims are hesitant to go on a walk because of the cost? Consider being not only a sponsor, but also a FINANCIAL SPONSOR to pilgrims.

SIXTH: We need your PRAYERS!. Ask God to bless the upcoming walks, to be with the teams, especially the lay directors and spiritual directors. Ask for the Holy Spirit to touch those that are to be pilgrims, to move them to take action to sign up for a walk.

SEVENTH: In all cases, God relies on you and me to be his CHANGE AGENTS. Let's be willing to say yes to the opportunities to serve, as God presents them to us.

See you at the Gatherings.

Gary Johnson

Lay Director

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2012/2013 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Gary Johnson
Gary@gae4dg.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Cheryl Broome
Cheryl@gae4dg.org

4th Day Board Representative

Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org

Assistant Lay Director

Anne Rioux
Anne@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Gathering Support

Myles McKemie
Myles@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Walk Support

Bobby Callison
Bobby@gae4dg.org

Board Member for Member Services

Jim Burgess
Jim@gae4dg.org

Treasurer

Debby Duplantis
Debby@gae4dg.org

Immediate Past Lay Director

Sandy Brooks
Sandy@gae4dg.org

Chrysalis Representative

Kathy Robbins
krobbins100@yahoo.com

Registration Liaison

Ted Shaw
tedshaw@swbell.net

Database Coordinator

Bud Broeker
bbroeker@austin.rr.com

Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Connie Ellis
drcellis@gmail.com

Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org

Music Coordinators

Nickie Hyde and
Tom Carstarphen
nickie.ji@yahoo.com
tomc4041@yahoo.com

Walk Talk Editor

Gina Franklin
franklingdom@gmail.com



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



The Walk Talk Deadline is on the 20th of each month!

Please send your articles, Community Opportunities, 4th Day Stories, Group appreciation and reflections to Gina Franklin 12905 Irongate Ave., Austin, TX 78727; or email to franklingdom@gmail.com

Were You There?

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 gathering schedule on the last page!

We'll be looking for you!

Potential Sponsors!

Please give prayerful consideration to who you might sponsor for the upcoming fall walks and get the process moving as quickly as possible. Once again we challenge each Reunion Group to sponsor at least one pilgrim for these walk. This challenge, of course, extends to individuals as well. Let's get busy and get the pilgrim applications in to the SWTX Emmaus Registrar to fill these walks.

Don't forget that the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group has 1/3 scholarships available, download the form at <http://www.austinemmaus.org/reg.php>. Also check with your local church for other scholarship opportunities. Do not let cost stand in the way of a potential pilgrim, talk to your board members on ways to help.

2012 Austin Sponsored Walks

Women's Walk # 1674 **Sept. 20-23**

LeeLeen Sundbeck, Lay Director
Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director
Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.
Diane Merwarth, ST Coordinator

Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

contact: leeleen21@gmail.com

contact: roxieg@austin.rr.com

contact: dianemerwarth@att.net

Men's Walk # 1686 **Oct. 25-28**

Derly Tijerina, Lay Director
Charlie Baskin, Spiritual Director
Gene McConnell, Board Rep.
Bob Duplantis, ST Coordinator

Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

contact: derly@pobox.com

contact: Gene.McConnell@jicompanies.com

contact: bob@bodeb.com

Agape Signup Online

The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1674 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1674agape

The signup for Men's Walk to Emmaus #1686 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1686agape

The general format at the web site is a list of instructions at the top of the page, followed by a grid of 6 columns with many rows for the items needed. The list of items is in alphabetical order. If you want to search for a particular item, you can enter <Control-F>, enter the name in the Find box, and press the Next button.

Approximately one week prior to the beginning of a Walk, a reminder e-mail will be sent to you for each item that you have promised to bring. The drop-off locations will be listed in the reminder e-mail.



Dear Lord,

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of others, and grant us cheerful, giving hearts that bring you glory. Amen.



Volunteers Needed!

Want to support the Emmaus Community and earn some money at the same time?

We are looking for people who love children and want to help provide child care for Candlelight. You will be paid \$40 for your service. We provide the place, activities, snacks, and the children.

If interested, please contact Bob Callison at 512-345-4796 or bobbycallison@swbell.net

Upcoming Austin Sponsored Walks

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors announced at the July Gathering:

- the 2/7-10/2013 Men's Walk to Emmaus will be held at Camp Young Judaea, Lay Director will be George Tolleson from First UMC Pflugerville, and Board Representative will be Jack Foreman,
- the 5/2-5/2013 Women's Walk to Emmaus will be held at Camp Young Judaea, Lay Director will be Susan Curtis from Berkeley UMC, and Board Representative will be Diane Merwarth,
- anyone interested in being on a Team Selection Committee needs to contact Tom Rioux at 512-422-8682 or rioux@mail.utexas.edu, and
- anyone interested in being on the Conference Room Team for a Walk MUST have an application on file (http://www.austinemmaus.org/team_app.php). The Walk dates are tentative until a contract between Southwest Texas Conference Emmaus and Camp Young Judaea is signed.

2013 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk # 1690 George Tolleson, Lay Director	Feb. 7-10, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley Jack Foreman, Board Rep.
Women's Walk # 1707 Susan Curtis, Lay Director	May 2-5, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley Diane Merwarth, Board Rep.
Women's Walk # 1720	Sept. 26-29, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
Men's Walk # 1730	Oct. 24-27, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

Both Peter and Paul answered Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?" in ways that have been a model for the Church through the years, for now, and for years to come.

Peter answered it at Caesarea Philippi. He spoke it for himself and the disciples: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Paul answered it in many of his writings including Romans 1:4: "(Christ) was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness." Tradition has it that their lives ended on the same day, recognized on a day of commemoration (June 29).

Their ministries have been a great blessing to the Church through the years. Untold numbers of people have been encouraged for their living and sustained at the time of their dying by their faithful witness.

On this day we give thanks for their witness. May we sustain and continue the proclamation of their witness for those who follow us. For we, too, are among those who will have opportunity to answer that question. May our answer be strong and bold, like that of Peter and Paul: ***"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."***

O heavenly Father, bless our witness of our faith in Your Son. Amen.

De Colores!

Gerard Kern

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group - Board of Directors Meeting

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 10, at Manor United Methodist Church. In attendance were: Sandy Brooks-Lay Director; Gary Johnson-Assistant Lay Director; Gene McConnell-Immediate Past Lay Director; Roxie Greenway-4th Day Representative; Bob Duplantis-Member Services; Bobby Callison-Walk Support; and Kathy Robbins-Chrysalis Representative. Also in attendance were Jim Burgess, Debby Duplantis and Bud Broeker .

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Sandy Brooks and she provided the opening prayer. Gary Johnson provided the minutes to the April Board meeting for review and approval. After review, Bob Duplantis moved the Board accept and Bobby Callison seconded. The minutes were approved by the Board.

Roxie Greenway provided an update on GAE4DG's use of Camp Young Judaea for 2013. She shared that she had received good news in that the dates requested for walks were now set, without any changes. She discussed recent discussions with CYJ and their booking agent that had caused some concern during the week of April 30 when she had been contacted to change the dates for two of the 2013 walks. During that week, with input from the other Board members, GAE4DG did not agree to change. Adrian at SWTX Emmaus retracted their request and stated that we could keep the dates but there is a continuing issue with the use of the Lodge. We are in competition with other groups for the use of CYG and the facility is attempting to maximize use of the camp. Our competition for the use of CYJ includes ACTS, Hays Praise and certain Jewish Organizations.

Sandy presented a report for Myles on Gathering Support. There was a discussion about the date for the July meeting since the first Thursday would fall on July 5 and there was a concern that because this is a holiday week, attendance would probably be impacted. Bob Duplantis moved that we move the July Gathering to the 2nd Thursday (July 12). Gary seconded and the motion passed.

The upcoming gatherings for the remainder of 2012 are as follows:

June:	Hyde Park Christian Church (we will have a Community potluck for the Agape Feast)
July (12 th)	University UMC
August :	Covenant UMC
September:	Bethany UMC
October:	Tarrytown UMC
November:	Westlake UMC
December:	Parker Lane UMC

Bobby Callison, Walk Support, discussed the candlelight service for Walk 1659. There were some issues with the timing and coordination between the Servant Team and the Conference Room Team in that the move from the conference room was earlier than expected, causing the communion service to be rushed. Future walks should coordinate better so that this does not reoccur.

In addition, we need to do a better job of prioritizing to the needs of older and handicapped pilgrims in all situations, including the move to the candlelight and in front of and on the steps in front of the stage. During Walk 1659, the procession was rushed and an elderly gentlemen almost fell while attempting to walk up steps to the stage. Instead, the Lay Director and Assistant Lay Directors should organize the procession so that these pilgrims and their tables should go first in order to be able to stand on the floor in front of the stage.

Bobby also mentioned babysitting needs for the next Walks (if you can babysit we need volunteers) and also a concern for completing the agape list earlier.

Gene McConnell, Board Rep. for Walk 1686, stated that as of that date, the Conference Room Team was incomplete and that the LD needed to replace two team members.

Kathy Robins gave an update for the upcoming Chrysalis events and also stated that this would be her last Board meeting. She is being replaced by Tim Dershner (sp).

Bud Broeker, LD for Walk 1659 provided his report to the Board. He stated that the week before the Walk, there were 26 pilgrims registered. The day before the Walk there were 24 and when the Walk began, there were only 21. The LD and BR agreed to start the Walk using 6 tables in that the Conference Room team was in place. Bud stated that he had two issues to report. One was a concern with using the "disclaimer form" that is rather wordy and was awkward for him to read verbatim to each pilgrim as they came to the registration table. The second concern was that the Board does not have good "institutional memory." He stated that when he was the Board Rep. to the SWTX Conference, they informed him that they were considering cutting GAE4DG to two walks per year because of the low attendance and the threat of cancellations. They stated that if one of our walks was cancelled, we would be cut to two walks per year. In 2009 and in 2011 two men's walks were cancelled since they did not obtain the minimum of 20 registered pilgrims. This continues to be an ongoing threat and he therefore suggested that we move to one men's walk per year. He went on to share that the break-even point for the conference was an average of 26 for all sites.

Roxie closed with a prayer and we were adjourned at 7:12. There were 114 in attendance at the Gathering.

NOTE: At the Gathering Gary Johnson presented the Board's nominations for replacing the outgoing Board members Gene McConnell, Roxie Greenway and Bob Duplantis. The nominations were Tom Rioux, Debby Duplantis and Jim Burgess. They were introduced to the Community and Gary asked for other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Gary asked for the Community to approve the nominations by saying "I" if for and "No" if against. The Board's nominations were approved.

Submitted by Gary Johnson

Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group - Board of Directors Meeting
Hyde Park Christian Church
Thursday, June 14, 2012

The following were in attendance: Gary Johnson-Lay Director, Anne Rioux-Asst. Lay Director, Debby Duplantis-Treasurer, Jim Burgess-Member Support, Tom Rioux-4th Day Board Representative, Cheryl Broome-Spiritual Director, Sandy Brooks-Immediate Past Lay Director, Bobby Callison-Walk Support. Also in attendance were Charlie Baskin, Gene McConnell and Roxie Greenway.

The meeting was called to order by Gary Johnson. Cheryl Broome offered the opening prayer. The minutes from the May 2012 BOD meeting were read. A discussion of Walk 1659's low pilgrim attendance included the possibility that there was no broad marketing of the walk to improve the numbers as has been done in the recent past. Sandy Brooks advised that Hays Praise is very proactive with individual church LD's (aka POC's—Points of Contact), going and marketing walks at church gatherings, etc. Bobby Callison moved to accept the minutes, and Debby Duplantis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Sandy Brooks advised she would contact the team members who wrote \$100 fee checks to see whose check had not cleared so that the outstanding \$100 for team fees for Walk 1644 could be resolved. Debby Duplantis requested permission to purchase the 2012 Quicken CD from Office Max to launch the Quicken record into her computer. Tom Rioux moved to ok this purchase, Jim Burgess seconded, and the purchase was approved unanimously.

Tom Rioux was asked to provide the 2013 walk dates since there had been some back and forth by Camp Young Judaea over changes. He moved that the BOD should purchase 4 Lay Director manuals at \$60 each for himself, Anne Rioux, Jim Burgess and Debby Duplantis; Gary Johnson seconded and the purchase was approved unanimously. There is a Walk/Flight Leadership training scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2012. Others on the calendar include June 23 in Hondo and August 11 in San Angelo. Tom Rioux promised to email the dates to the BOD.

Tom Rioux advised the Walk Leadership 2013 names were due in San Antonio July 13, 2012. He has contacted some of the potential candidates. Gary Johnson suggested that all potential Lay Directors should complete and sign an application that includes an explanation of the commitments involved. Tom shared a spreadsheet with a list of those men and women whose walk experience could put them in contention to be Lay Directors in 2013. Those whose experience would seem to qualify them were reviewed. Anne moved that if these people met the standards to be Lay Directors that they be invited to serve; Bobby Callison seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Tom Rioux made several proposals about matters that he felt showed some need for tightening up:

1. No member of a Conference Room Team may sponsor a pilgrim.
2. The canon of the Upper Room states that in talks no one may lift up or put down a person or church, nor include a person's full name other than the speaker's, nor mention a specific church or denomination.
3. Walk Lay Directors, Spiritual Directors and Board Representatives should stay in the same building with the pilgrims to be readily available to the pilgrims should a need arise during the night on walks.
4. The BOD should consider requiring that an Emmaus member should serve first on A Servant Team before serving on a Conference Room team.

Tom was asked to provide these proposals in writing to the BOD.

Other reports:

Bobby Callison provided a handout describing the format of Welcome Backs for Hays Praise and other ways they make money to defray the cost of walks for pilgrims. There was a "red flag" raised about the dinner/dance fundraisers which apparently included a "BYOB" option. Charlie Baskin was adamant that if GAE4DG were to engage in such an activity that it must not include a "BYOB" option. Bobby suggested that the District Supervisor should strongly encourage pastors to promote and support walks, and that the POC's be active and submit articles and information to the newsletter.

Jim Burgess advised he and Roxie Greenway were attempting to get access to the web pages they needed to support a change to our communication system.

New Business:

Tom Rioux offered thanks to the outgoing Board members for their service.

Gene McConnell reported on Walk 1686 that he, Charlie Baskin and Gary Johnson would be meeting with the LD to offer him support and discuss how the BOD and GAE4DG could be helpful to him as he goes forward with team formation.

The Chrysalis update was tabled to be read during the Gathering.

Charlie Baskin closed the meeting with a prayer.

Ed. 7/16/2012 AR

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

2012 Gatherings

August 2012

Thursday, August 2, 2012
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road

September 2012

Thursday, September 6, 2012
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill

October 2012

Thursday, October 4, 2012
Tarrytown UMC
2601 Exposition Blvd.

November 2012

Thursday, November 1, 2012
Westlake UMC
1460 Redbud Trail

Reminder:

Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

Contact:

Board Member for Gathering Support
Myles McKemie
myles.mckemie@ergon.com

