



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



January, 2013

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 24, Number 1

A word from the Lay Director

Greetings and Happy New Year from your friends at the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group! We hope your Fourth Days have been great!!!

In reflecting on 2012, we have seen and felt the power of the Holy Spirit working through Emmaus, to change the lives of pilgrims and in helping to build Christ's Church on Earth. Indeed, the Lord has been gracious to the Community by providing the pilgrims and resources to sponsor four Austin-area Walks each year. First of all, we thank God for this opportunity to serve in this way; and second, we are thankful to the Emmaus Community for their support and prayers during the last year.

Now with 2013, as believers we have the opportunity to continue to make disciples and support the Church through our efforts in Emmaus. Although Emmaus is but one way to serve Christ, it is powerful and a genuine way to demonstrate God's love, and to open our eyes to His desire to have a close relationship with each of us. For those called to work for His Kingdom through Emmaus, there is a JOY in being involved in this community sponsored process and to see the cooperation between many churches.

There are four Walks scheduled for 2013; two Men's Walks and two Women's Walks. The first walk is February 7-10 and Christ is counting on us to help make Men's Walk 1690 the best Walk ever! I ask for your prayers for the Team, led by George Tolleson (Lay Director), Monte Marshall (Spiritual Director), Jack Foreman (Board Representative) and Kathy and Ted Shaw (Servant Team Coordinators).

****Please note that Walk 1690 needs pilgrims! I ask that you talk up the Walk and encourage potential pilgrims to consider this Walk.****

As a reminder, there are many ways to serve Christ through Emmaus. There is the constant need for willing sponsors from the Emmaus community to talk to friends and church members about the Walk to Emmaus, what it meant to them, and to offer to sponsor potential pilgrims for an upcoming Walk. We welcome you to support Emmaus in any way you can, especially by your attendance at monthly Gatherings. Additionally, the public is invited to attend each Welcome Back, a special meeting normally held the Tuesday evening following a Walk where Pilgrims from the Walk describe their 4th Days and get more information about serving on a team, sponsoring Pilgrims; and serving on the Board or a committee.

Recently we emailed every person in our Emmaus database. If you did not receive an email, we do not have your email address. If you would like to be added to our contact list in order to receive reminders of upcoming events, please let us know. The Board members' email addresses are included in each edition of Walk Talk.

Blessings for 2013, and I'll see you on the Walk!
Gary Johnson, Lay Director, Greater Austin Emmaus



Men's Emmaus Walk 1690 Update:

Walk #1690 will hold its last Team Meeting on Saturday, January 12th at Pflugerville First United Methodist Church. The inside and outside Team are ready for the Walk.

Walk #1690 is in need of Pilgrims. If you are aware of any Pilgrims who want to go on this Walk have them complete their applications and send both the application and money in right away. All applications filled out after January 17th should be faxed to George Tolleson. Contact me at [\(512\) 695-1079](tel:5126951079) for the fax number and further instructions.



George Tolleson
Lay Director Walk #1690

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

Tim Deschner
tdeschner@att.net

Registration Liaison

Ted Shaw
tedshaw@swbell.net

Database Coordinator

Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org

Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Connie Ellis
drcellis@gmail.com

Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Tom Rioux
Tom@gae4dg.org

Music Coordinator

Tom Carstarphen
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 2013 walks! It is never too early to sponsor a pilgrim. So get busy finding your pilgrim candidate, pray pray pray, discuss the walk with them, and get their 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.

2013 Austin Sponsored Walks

Men's Walk # 1690	Feb. 7-10, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
George Tolleson, Lay Director		contact: gtsic@flash.net
Monte Marshall, Spiritual Director		
Jack Foreman, Board Rep.		contact: jcforeman@sbcglobal.net
Kathy & Ted Shaw, ST Coordinators		contact: kathyshaw@swbell.net
Women's Walk # 1707	May 2-5, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
Susan Curtis, Lay Director		contact: curtis@prismnet.com
Judy Baskin, Spiritual Director		
Diane Merwarth, Board Rep.		contact: dianemerwarth@att.net
Sherry Wilkison, ST Coordinator		contact: rwilkison@austin.rr.com
Men's Walk # 1720	Sept. 26-29, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
Bob Duplantis, Lay Director		contact: bob@bodeb.com
Tina Carter, Spiritual Director		
Jack Foreman, Board Rep.		contact: jcforeman@sbcglobal.net
Anne Rioux, ST Coordinator		contact: Anne@gae4dg.org
Women's Walk # 1730	Nov. 7-10, 2013	Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley
Tonna Marcyes, Lay Director		contact: tmarcyес@austin.rr.com
Richard West, Spiritual Director		
Roxie Greenway, Board Rep.		contact: roxieg@austin.rr.com
Gina Franklin, ST Coordinator		contact: franklingdom@gmail.com

Agape Signup Online

The signup for Men's Walk to Emmaus #1690 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1690agape

The signup for Women's Walk to Emmaus #1707 is: www.mysignup.com/walk1707agape

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.

Calling for Service on the Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board of Directors

So you've been on a Walk, served on a team, attended Gatherings and are part of a regular weekly reunion group. What else could you do to round out your Emmaus experience and be a great resource for the work of our Board?

Consider service on our Board of Directors! We have three slots to fill: Assistant Lay Director, Board Member for Gathering Support, and Spiritual Director. Rev. Cheryl Broome is searching our pool of pastors for candidates to the Spiritual Director position, but she is very open to your ideas about someone to replace her on June 1. You may reach her by email at Cheryl@gae4dg.org

As for the other two positions, there are a few features of Board service to consider. One is that the terms last three years, and another is that we meet once a month at 6 PM wherever the Gatherings are held. Also, if you are on the Board, the Upper Room has deemed you may not serve on a Conference Room Team for a Walk UNLESS you have already been a Lay Director, in which case you may serve as the Board Representative for a Walk.

So, what do these jobs entail?

The Spiritual Director offers advice and counsel to the Board to keep our hearts in keeping with Christ's commands, attends Board meetings, attends Team Selection Committee Meetings, recruits Walk Spiritual Directors, and recruits clergy for Candlelight.

The Assistant Lay Director is there to step in for the Lay Director if needed; takes notes at meetings and compiles the notes into minutes for the next meeting; uses the first year to prepare to be Lay Director in year two, and is the Immediate Past Lay Director in year three. Time commitment for this position is about 6 hours per month including attendance at Board meetings. Our tradition on the GAE4DG Board is to alternate women and men into the position, so we are currently seeking male candidates for June 2013.

The Board Member for Gathering Support maintains contact through emails and phone calls to the Emmaus Points of Contact at member churches to commit to hosting Gatherings during the year, recruiting 4th Day Speakers for Gatherings, and coordinates babysitting for Gatherings. Our practice is to hold four of the Gatherings at the home churches of Lay Directors for Team Commissioning in the month prior to a Walk. We stay about 6-7 months ahead so that the churches have time to prepare for the Gatherings. The time commitment for this position is about 4-6 hours plus attendance at Board meetings.

Please give prayerful consideration to these needs of our 4th Day Group. Ask anyone on the Board and we will affirm what a blessing it is to serve. Our meetings are lively and grace-filled!

For more information or to nominate yourself or someone (please ask them first!), OR to serve on the nominating committee, please email Anne Rioux at Anne@gae4dg.org, or call her at 656-1652. Our goal is to present the candidates for service at the April Gathering, so a subcommittee will meet in March (date TBA) to formally nominate candidates for these positions.

De Colores! Anne Rioux, GAE4DG Assistant Lay Director

Loving Others on our Knees

Christian people pray. Most of us find our spiritual lives gaining the best traction when we think about a world larger than the one we create during our daily life. We pray for the needs and circumstances that ripple through other peoples' lives.

In Christian lingo, we refer to this petitionary practice as intercessory prayer. We intercede for people -- we carry their sadness, distress or fear down the next stretch of the road. Paul speaks of "bearing one another's burdens" (Galations 6:2).

Your worship bulletin may read "Prayers of the People" or simply "Prayers." They reveal the abundance of your congregational heart -- they tell what counts for faith in your church.

I heard someone refer to intercessory prayer as "loving your neighbor on your knees." "Neighbor" in the Christian tradition has never meant only those people we like or whom we can stand. Intercessory prayer deserves to include all people. This is the calling of those who believe in the power of intercessory prayer.

Even when the feelings for other people come naturally, the words don't always follow. When you don't have the words, or the courage, or the sturdiness to pray as you wish, just remember Romans 8:26. The Spirit will stand in for you, if not with speech, then with a good sigh .

De Colores! Gerard Kern

**Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group
Board of Directors' Monthly Meeting
Parker Lane United Methodist Church
Thursday, December 6, 2012**

The following were in attendance: Gary Johnson-Lay Director; Anne Rioux, Assistant Lay Director; Debby Duplantis-Treasurer; Tom Rioux-4th Day Board Representative; Bobby Callison-Board Member for Walk Support; Jim Burgess-Board Member for Member Services; Sandy Brooks, Immediate Past Lay Director; Cheryl Broome, Spiritual Director; and Tim Deschner, Austin Crossroads/Chrysalis/Journeys. The following guests were also in attendance: Gene McConnell, Diane Merwarth, and Jack Foreman.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Gary Johnson who opened with prayer.

Gene McConnell filed his report as Board Representative for Walk 1686. He emphasized the importance of the team selection process and careful review of Lay Director candidates and their ability to give the appropriate amount of time to perform the duties of a Lay Director. For the first time in years this walk almost reached the maximum of 36 pilgrims, and the Welcome Back was very well attended.

The minutes for the November 2012 Board meeting were read. Tom Rioux moved to accept the November 2012 BOD meeting minutes, Gary Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Debby Duplantis presented the Treasurer's Report. Anne Rioux moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Bobby Callison seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Tom Rioux distributed a calendar of upcoming trainings, walks and proposed walk dates for 2014. He also proposed that the Servant Team Coordinator should handle the Prayer Vigils, Prayer Vigil Report and Community Letters for walks so that these items appear at the proper time during the walk. Tom is looking for volunteers for the team selection meeting (TBA) for the final two 2013 Walks.

Bobby Callison advised he is checking with Ashley Beebe about her availability for child care for the Walk 1690 Candlelight (Lay Director George Tolleson). The Welcome Back for this walk will be held at Pflugerville UMC with a meet and greet at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7 PM in the sanctuary. The Welcome Back for Walk 1707 (Lay Director Susan Curtis) will be held at Berkeley UMC, 2407 Berkeley Ave, Austin, at 6:30 PM on May 7.

Bobby Callison reported that he is researching other options at HEB for Candlelight candles due to the closing of Cokesbury stores. Sandy Brooks suggested looking at the Catholic book stores for them. Bobby also said we may order Walk books for the Book Table from Cokesbury on line and they will offer prepaid shipping.

Jim Burgess stated he has renewed the GAE4DG web address www.austinemmaus.org.

Tom Rioux will develop an email to send to the entire GAE4DG database to update information for the database. Gary Johnson will provide a cover letter for the email.

On behalf of Myles McKemie, it was announced that the April 4, 2013 Gathering will be held at Berkeley UMC for the commissioning of the team for Walk 1707.

Anne Rioux and Cheryl Broome are working on identifying GAE4DG Board candidates for the three-year terms for Assistant Lay Director, Member for Gathering Support and Spiritual Director beginning June 2013. Anne will announce at the December Gathering that she needs volunteers for a subcommittee to meet to nominate these new Board members, and that she needs nominations for the positions. Anyone wishing to participate on the subcommittee or nominate someone for the positions should email Anne at winegoddess99@hotmail.com.

Tim Deschner confirmed there is a Women's Journey scheduled for January 2, 2013 at Buda UMC. Anne Rioux moved to defray some Journey's expenses in the amount of \$200, Gary Johnson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Attendance at the Gathering was 68.

Ed. 1/2/2013 AR

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

2013 Gatherings

January 2013

Thursday, January 3, 2013
First UMC Pflugerville
500 East Pecan Street
Team #1690 Commissioning

Contact:

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

February 2013

Thursday, February 14, 2013
Wesley UMC
1164 San Bernard

Reminder:

Childcare Services are available
at all Gatherings.

March 2013

Thursday, March 7, 2013
First UMC Austin
1201 Lavaca Street

April 2013

Thursday, April 4, 2013
Berkeley UMC
2407 Berkeley Ave.
Team #1707 Commissioning



May 2013

Thursday, May 9, 2013
Manor UMC
510 North Burnet, Manor