



The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Newsletter



April 2014

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 25, Number 4



Where Are We?



I believe we are at a crossroad. Our path forward can be very positive but it will take a renewed response of our entire group to make that happen.

In the fall of 2013 your Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group Board created a survey and requested those in our entire database to complete it and make comments. In February 2014 the Board met to review the survey with respect to two major areas of concern: 1) dwindling attendance at Gatherings resulting in Walks struggling to make, and 2) comments pertaining to the music sung at Gatherings and Candlelights. We invited several musicians to join us in the discussion about music.

Along the way, we have made concerted efforts to respond to complaints about the “business” portions of Gatherings by shortening them as much as possible. Our hope is that this has resulted in a more worship-oriented experience for all members attending.

About music – there was a 50-50 split between the “fish book” music lovers and the “contemporary” music lovers. As a result, our musicians agreed that the most sensible solution to this outcome is that the music at Gatherings (and Candlelights) should be an even mix of both, AND, that the playlists should be refreshed at each event. Further, we have suggested that the Music Teams for Walks should join the “Emmaus All-Stars” both at the Gathering that commissions a Walk Team and at the first Gathering that follows a Walk so that new members will experience a specific connection to their Walk.

About attendance – this is a much trickier area! We were very surprised that distance and traffic seemed to have no significant bearing on attendance. However, one finding we got from the survey was that a lot of folks are very busy during the week with job and children’s schedules that preclude them from attending Gatherings. Our answer to this is to have a Saturday Gathering at Northwest Hills UMC on June 7th from 5-8 PM. Our agenda will include a “how-to-sponsor” presentation; a seminar presented by Pastor Tina Carter of Parker Lane UMC on her new book entitled “The Wealth of Poverty”; a potluck supper with Silent Auction of cakes and pies to support our scholarship program, and a Kids’ Free Cookie and Cupcake Walk; concluding with singing and worship.

Please save the date for the June 7th Saturday Gathering and help us prepare for a good experience by signing up at the following:

Attending the June 7th Gathering

http://www.mysignup.com/gae4dg_gathering_attending

Donating a Cake or Pie to the Silent Auction

http://www.mysignup.com/gae4dg_gathering_silent_auction

Donating cookies and/or cupcakes to the Kids’ Walk

http://www.mysignup.com/gae4dg_gathering_cookie_cupcake_walk



I have asked many times in the last year “Where do you think your life would be today if you had never gone on a Walk to Emmaus?” It is up to each of us to support the movement by participating so that our fellow Christians may have the same opportunity afforded us. I hope to see you at future Gatherings and especially on June 7th.

De Colores!

Anne Rioux

Lay Director, Greater Austin Emmaus



Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group

2014 Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Anne Rioux

Anne@austinemmaus.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Cheryl Broome

Cheryl@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Lay Director

Mel Chambers

Mel@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Gathering Support

LeeLeen Sundbeck

LeeLeen@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Walk Support

Bobby Callison

Bobby@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Member Services

Jim Burgess

Jim@austinemmaus.org

Treasurer

Debby Duplantis

Debby@austinemmaus.org

4th Day Board Representative

Tom Rioux

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Immediate Past Lay Director

Gary Johnson

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Chrysalis Representative

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Registration Liaison

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Database Coordinator

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Tom@austinemmaus.org

Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Bobby Callison

Bobby@austinemmaus.org

Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

Tom Rioux

Tom@austinemmaus.org

Music Coordinator

Tom Carstarphen

tomc4041@yahoo.com

WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

Kellye@austinemmaus.org



Financial Statement

as of 2/28/14

Bank Balance

\$8,922.11

Scholarship Fund

\$1,412.00

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

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The WalkTalk Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Please send your articles, information, community
opportunities, 4th Day experiences/reflections to:

Kellye@austinemmaus.org

There were 71 attending the March
Gathering at St. John's UMC, and we heard
an amazing 4th Day talk by Mark Adleman!

Check out the Gathering schedule on the last page!
They are normally the first Thursday of the month.
Childcare available.

2014 Austin Sponsored Emmaus Walks



Women's Walk #1749 April 24 — 27, 2014 Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

Susan Curtis, Lay Director contact: Susan@austinemmaus.org

Jeannie Whitehurst, Spiritual Director

Diane Merwarth, Board Rep. contact: Diane@austinemmaus.org

Myles McKemie, ST Coordinator contact: Myles@austinemmaus.org

Welcome Back, April 29, 2014, 6:30, Berkeley UMC, 2407 Berkeley Avenue, Austin, 78745, 512-447-6633
<http://www.mysignup.com/walk1749agape>

Men's Walk #1758 August 21 — 24, 2014 Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

David Graham, Lay Director contact: David@austinemmaus.org

Jim Austin, Spiritual Director

Mel Chambers, Board Rep. contact: Mel@austinemmaus.org

Bob Duplantis, ST Coordinator contact: Bob@austinemmaus.org

Welcome Back TBD
<http://www.mysignup.com/walk1758agape>

Women's Walk #1775 November 13 — 16, 2014 Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

Ronee Gilbert, Lay Director contact: Ronee@austinemmaus.org

Cindy Layton, Spiritual Director

Lynn Magee, Board Rep. contact: Lynn@austinemmaus.org

ST Coordinator TBD

Welcome Back, Nov. 18, 2014, 6:30, Hill Country Bible Church, 11880 Old 2243 West, Leander, 512-259-1900
<http://www.mysignup.com/walk1775agape>

**The following signups are up
and linked to the Walks web page:**

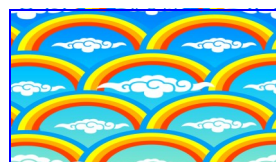
<http://www.mysignup.com/walk1749agape>

<http://www.mysignup.com/walk1758agape>

<http://www.mysignup.com/walk1775agape>

**If you would like to be considered for the
Conference Room Team for any Walk,
please submit a Team Application, located
at:**

http://www.austinemmaus.org/team_app.php



Chrysalis News!



Dear sisters and brothers of the GAEC,

Two-and-a-half years ago I had the transformational experience of lay-directing a boys Chrysalis flight in Austin. I admit that preparing for that flight was an *ordeal*. We had mounds of paperwork, problems with the facilities, last-minute cancellations from some team members, and a minor accident that put a big dent in the agape trailer. Many times I looked up to heaven and asked, “God, are you playing a prank on me?”

But when our flight got airborne with 36 butterflies, God took us above the clouds. I will never forget walking into the sanctuary for candlelight – it was like stepping into the center of the Milky Way galaxy. And I remember afterwards in the chapel, listening to 65 boys and men singing at the tops of their lungs, “He loves us. Oh, how He loves us...” When a young man, tears in his eyes, came to pray with *me* – the most boring man on the team – I thought, “Dear God! You weren’t pulling my leg. This actually works!” While I was going through the tedium of planning an “event,” Christ was proclaiming the kingdom of heaven all along.

Well, now we are in that challenging process again. This summer we will have two Austin-area Chrysalis flights, and the work of building teams and recruiting butterflies is well underway. Both flights will begin the morning of Thursday, July, 17th, and end the afternoon of Saturday, July 19th. The flights are:

Boys Flight 381 at Covenant UMC, directed by Matt Trocha of Dripping Springs UMC

Girls Flight 382 at Bethany UMC, directed by Wendy Boatwright of Manor UMC

With your prayer and support, we will set the stage for more Austin flights in the summers to come. Here are a few things you can do to help make that happen:

Explain the value of Chrysalis to your church’s youth director. All youth directors, whether professional or volunteer, care deeply about the spiritual growth of their young people, but not all of them know how Chrysalis might help them accomplish that. Chrysalis is designed to ignite the spiritual life of teenagers, and, in turn, invigorate their home churches and youth groups. We’ve approached Austin youth directors about Chrysalis, and some will need your help explaining Chrysalis to their youth, identifying eligible butterflies (Chrysalis isn’t for everyone), and finding suitable sponsors in your congregation. The best way to introduce youth directors to Chrysalis is to sponsor them on a Walk to Emmaus if they haven’t already been.

Offer to be a sponsor or help find sponsors. Signing up for a “three-day spiritual retreat” can be intimidating for teenagers. They need lots of support and encouragement from a living, breathing, caring sponsor who will help with the paperwork, do the behind-the-scenes agape work, provide transportation, and attend all relevant events during the Chrysalis weekend.

Serve with the Chrysalis community and board. Our Chrysalis board needs **YOU!** We need volunteers to serve in the same roles required for Emmaus – prayer vigil and agape coordinators, musicians, a treasurer, next-step (fourth-day) coordinator, etc. You don’t have to be twenty-something or love Lady Gaga to work with teenagers. You just need a servant’s heart.

It may seem like a tall order to give your time and energy for teenagers who don’t belong to you. Why would anyone do that? Well, because embedded in that effort is Christ’s redemption of the world through the energy, enthusiasm, passion and idealism of youth. We do it because Christ is counting on us, because the church without its teenagers is Christ without all his body parts, because inside that tiny cocoon of commitment, God has placed a butterfly waiting to spread its wings. God bless you and thank you for your support.

De Colores and Fly with Christ!

Tim Deschner

P.S. If you have questions or need information, call me (Tim Deschner) at 512-934-8077 or email at tdeschner@att.net.



**Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group
Board of Directors' Monthly Meeting
Bethany United Methodist Church, Austin
Thursday, February 6, 2014**

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Melvin Chambers. Opening Prayer was given by Cheryl Broome. Attending were Mel Chambers, Assistant Lay Director; Gary Johnson, Immediate Past Lay Director; Tom Rioux, Board Representative to SWTC; Rev. Cheryl Broome, Spiritual Director; Debby Duplantis, Treasurer; LeeLeen Sundbeck, Board Member for Gathering Support; Bobby Callison, Board Member for Walk Support; Jim Burgess, Board Member for Member Services; Kellye Noret, *WalkTalk* Editor; Paul Draper, Lay Director for Men's Walk 1740; Ed White, Board Representative for Men's Walk 1740; Susan Curtis, Lay Director for Women's Walk 1749; Diane Merwarth, Board Representative for Women's Walk 1749; and Lois Draper.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved with some grammar corrections to be made.

Treasurer's Report: Debby Duplantis informed us that there was no change in our financial status. Debby is working on getting our checking account fees lowered. The board approved the report. The yearend report was not completed as of the meeting but will be turned in to the Emmaus office in February.

SWTC Board Representative Report: We need spiritual directors for Walks 1749 and 1758. Walk/Flight training was held at Coker UMC on Jan. 11th. All team leaders were notified. There is a Southwest Texas Conference board meeting Jan. 18th.

Gathering Support Report: LeeLeen Sundbeck reported that childcare for the Gathering will have a sign posted informing attendees where it is located in the church. February and March Gatherings have been confirmed with the hosting churches. Plans were discussed for a family outdoor gathering for May or June with the date to be voted on at a future board meeting.

Walk Support Report: Bobby Callison reported that he may have two people willing to work childcare for candlelight at Wimberley UMC. He suggested that childcare be held at Camp Young Judaea for safety reasons, and it is up to Paul and Ed to decide which location. He informed the board that Ed White ordered a copy of the old video for walk 1740 and we may receive a bill for it. Pilgrims Welcome Back has been set for all upcoming walks but 1775. We have prayer vigils set up with the conference for upcoming walks.

Member Services Report: Jim Burgess did some work on our email list. The board suggested that we have email addresses for church point of contacts.

Immediate Past Lay Director Report: Gary Johnson tells us the IRS is backed up about a year on 501(c) (3) filing, and when we apply we need to have everything right or it will take longer. He stated that within the next 60 days he should have a sample report for the board to approve. The cost of the filing will be between \$500.00 and \$700.00.

Spiritual Director's Report: Rev. Cheryl Broome asked Jim Austin to be spiritual director for Walk 1758, and found a spiritual director for Walk 1748. She is still trying to get in contact with pastors to be spiritual directors for walk 1775.

Chrysalis Report: Tim Deschner was not present and there was no Chrysalis report.

Walk 1740 and Walk 1749 Report: Paul Draper has 20 pilgrims for Walk 1740 and has everything covered for this Walk. Susan Curtis has 8 pilgrims for Walk 1749.

Old Business: Two people were suggested for ALD and Prayer Vigil Coordinator. We need someone to take over Walk Support. The board retreat was planned for February 8, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm by Melvin Chambers. Next meeting will be at 6:00pm., March 6th at St. John's UMC.

Minutes submitted by Mel Chambers, Assistant Lay Director

Women's Walk #1749 is Almost Here!

Women's Walk #1749 will be at Camp Young Judaea near Wimberley, April 24th – 27th. We are very excited that we now have enough pilgrims to make the walk a reality! But we do still have openings for more pilgrims, so keep those applications coming!

Forms are available online at <http://www.austinemmaus.org/reg.php>. Applications mailed before April 8th should go to **Emmaus Registrar, 16400 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX 78248**. After April 10th, forms and fees should be sent directly to Susan Curtis, Lay Director. You can contact Susan at Curtis@prismnet.com.

Candlelight will be Saturday, April 26th. Singing starts at 7:30, worship starts at 8:00, and pilgrims will arrive approximately at 9:00. Childcare will be provided at the Welcome Center. **Closing** is open to everyone and is Sunday, April 27th, starting at 3:30pm. Join us to **Welcome Back** these pilgrims on Tuesday, April 29th, at 6:30pm at Berkeley UMC, 2407 Berkeley Avenue, Austin, TX 78745.

Please continue praying for the team and the pilgrims of this Walk! Our Lay Director is Susan Curtis; Spiritual Director is Rev. Jeannie Whitehurst; Servant Team Coordinator is Myles McKemie; and Emmaus Board Rep. is Diane Merwarth.

De Colores!
Susan Curtis, Lay Director



Welcome new pilgrims! Men's Walk #1740 February 28 — March 2



Bruce Burton
George Castillo
Ahmed Chibib
Daniel Clifton
Chuck Gautschy
Glenn Goldsmith
Larry Johnson
Gary Krieg
Eddie McNeill
Jim Rank
Frank Rojas
Mark Rolland
Dan Ross
Charles Schroeder
Chris Smith
Evan Solice
Steve Stevens
Dick Tusia
Steven Van
Scott Wagner
Don Ward
Danny White
David Williams
John Wolfhope



Team #1749

Angie Hart
Beth Collins
Beth Bible
Cathy Troutner
Rev. Cheryl Broome
Chris McKemie
Chris Weihl
Rev. Dana Hamilton
Debbie Spurlock
Diane Merwarth – *Board Rep.*
Jan Higgs
Janice Hinojosa
Rev. Jeannie Whitehurst – *SD*
Rev. Jim Austin
Letha Peters
Michele Lang
Robin Richard
Roslynn Hopkins
Rev. Sue Abold
Sue Payne
Susan Curtis – *LD*
Tami Pharr
Terri Sloan
Vikki Schwarz
Wendy Jones
Myles McKemie – *ST Coordinator*



Walk Reunions!

The Greater Austin Emmaus 4th Day Group is sponsoring a reunion for the following Walks at the April 3rd Gathering at Berkeley UMC:

Men's Walk #108, 5/11/89, Mt. Wesley
(LD Ralph Eckwall)
Men's Walk #635, 3/19/98, Mt. Wesley
(LD Donald Grace)
Women's Walk #1338, 11/9/06, Highland Lakes
(LD Lynn Magee)

If you were a pilgrim or team member on one of these Walks, we hope to see you at Berkeley UMC on April 3rd!

Save the Date!!!!
JUNE FAMILY GATHERING
Saturday, June 7, 2014
5:00 – 8:00 PM
(replaces the Thursday, June 5th Gathering)
Northwest Hills United Methodist Church
7050 Village Center Dr., Austin, TX 78731

Our 2013 Survey showed that a lot of Emmaus members cannot attend our Thursday evening Gatherings due to work and children's schedules. We hope this will give many of you a chance to reunite with your Emmaus friends in a family-friendly setting.

Our activities include:

- 5:00 PM – How to Sponsor Effectively—Role Playing the “Do’s” and “Don’t’s”
- 5:30 PM – The Wealth of Poverty – A Special Presentation by Rev. Tina Carter, Parker Lane UMC
- 6:00-7:00 PM – Potluck Supper with:
 - Silent Auction of Cakes and Pies benefitting the GAE4DG Scholarship Fund
(Be sure to bring CASH or CHECKS to pay for your winning items.)
 - Free Cookie/Cupcake Walk for the kids
 - Very brief Business Meeting
- 7:00-8:00 PM – Worship and Holy Communion

NOTE: Childcare will be provided from 5-8 PM so you may decide when it's time to bring the kids into the events.

We need donations of cakes and/or pies for the Silent Auction. If you can help, please sign up at http://www.mysignup.com/gae4dg_gathering_silent_auction. BE SURE TO DELIVER YOUR DONATION TO THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER BY 5:30 PM.

We need donations of cookies or cupcakes for the Free Cookie/Cupcake Walk for Kids. If you can help, please sign up at http://www.mysignup.com/gae4dg_gathering_cookie_cupcake_walk, BE SURE TO DELIVER YOUR DONATION TO THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER BY 5:30 PM.

Please RSVP via http://www.mysignup.com/gae4dg_gathering_attending if you plan to attend, and if you need childcare tell us how children and their ages so we can staff accordingly.



Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

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

2014 Gatherings

April 3, 2014

Thursday, April 3, 2014
Berkeley UMC
2407 Berkeley Ave., 78745
4th Day Speaker Steve Collins
Walk #1749 team commissioning
Reunion for Walks #108, #635, #1338

May 1, 2014

Thursday, May 1, 2014
First UMC
1201 Lavaca Street, 78701
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #133, #654, #1344

June 7, 2014

Saturday, June 7, 2014
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Northwest Hills UMC
7050 Village Center Dr., 78731
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #141, #666, #1355

July 10, 2014

Thursday, July 10, 2014
Westlake UMC
1460 Redbud Trail., 78746
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #149, #676, #1409

August 7, 2014

Thursday, August 7, 2014
Location TBD
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #165, #700, #1425

September 4, 2014

Thursday, September 4, 2014
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Rd., 78727
4th Day Speaker TBA
Reunion for Walks #170, #704, #1435

October 2, 2014

Thursday, September 4, 2014
Hill Country Bible Church
11880 Old 2243 West, Leander, 78641
4th Day Speaker TBA
Walk #1775 team commissioning
Reunion for Walks #182A, #721, #1451

Childcare available at all Gatherings!

Contact:

Board Member for Gathering Support
LeeLeen Sundbeck
LeeLeen@austinemmaus.org

Note that the June Gathering is on SATURDAY, June 7th, and the July Gathering is the 2nd Thursday instead of the 1st Thursday (due to Fourth of July).