



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



September 2018

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 29, Number 9

De Colores!

The summer months are upon us, but the Greater Austin Emmaus Community has COOL activities in store! Yes, it's hotter than blue blazes out there, but you can beat the heat by joining us Sept. 8th at our next Gathering, where we will enjoy the respite of Covenant UMC's air conditioning. Activities include an **AGAPE WORKSHOP** at 4:00, a potluck meal at 5:30, and worship at 6:30. For the Agape Workshop, we're asking folks to bring Agape ideas, materials, energy, and most importantly, grace to share with the pilgrims of our upcoming Walks. We will put together 65-70 of each item and create Pillow Agape, Table Agape, and whatever else we can come up with to share God's Love with others.

Speaking of upcoming Walks, we have Women's Walk #143, Nov. 12-15, led by Chris McKemie. Please be in prayer for the pilgrims, sponsors, and team members of this Walk. Plan on attending Candlelight on Saturday, Nov. 14, and the Closing on Sunday, Nov. 15. If you know ladies who might benefit from being a pilgrim on this weekend, please consider sponsoring them, or get them in touch with the Point of Contact at your local church to get the process going, as this Walk is filling up!

We are also preparing for a Men's Walk next Spring, led by Arnie Waden. Team Selection for this Walk will be September 10th. If you are interested in serving on a team, visit the website, www.austinemmaus.org, and find the form to sign up to participate. Each team requires 1/3 of the members to have zero team experience, 1/3 to have 1-2 Walks under their belt, and the remaining third can be made up of "veterans" who have been on more than 2 teams. There is also a Women's Walk next Fall led by Brenda Hightower.

So, you can see we have a lot going on as we move into 2019. We will continue to have Gatherings in "odd numbered" months, and we will continue to do special activities at 4pm on these Saturday Gatherings to provide community members with opportunities for fun and learning. We will have additional "Agape Parties" at Gatherings prior to Walks, and additional training opportunities. If you have suggestions of activities that would be fun and productive, email our Gathering Support Board Member, Steven Scott.

For the future growth of the Greater Austin Emmaus Community, we need your help in the following areas:

Prayer – Be praying for ALL churches and church leaders, both "professional" ministers and lay ministers. We need to be praying for our Walks, and for our pilgrims, sponsors, team members, and our Board.

Communication – We each need to be in communication with our pastors, lay leaders, and other church leadership and be SURE that they know that you support the Walk to Emmaus. Spell out your expectations for their support. TALK to them and let them know where you stand. Your pastors want to know that you are willing to serve, willing to sponsor pilgrims, and willing to help Emmaus thrive at your local church. Does your pastor know that you'd like to see them at the next Gathering? Does your pastor know that you'd like to see them serve on an upcoming team? Does your pastor know that you'd like to sponsor someone?

Service – We need to be servants of Jesus Christ and remember that Christ has no hands and feet but ours. We need to be willing to give help and encouragement to others. When in doubt, let them know that you're doing so because you are a disciple of Jesus Christ and committed to His commandments. As the famous saying goes, wherever you go, preach the Gospel of Christ, and when necessary, use words. Your witness can be a beautiful thing to share.

Grace – In all things, let us strive to achieve the grace and mercy that Jesus Christ has demonstrated towards us in everything we say and do. Nothing is as attractive to others as grace, mercy, and peace. We should be intentional about practicing forgiveness, clemency, and grace in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and especially in our churches.

So please, talk to your pastor. Talk to your friends. Tell your story. If the Walk to Emmaus means something to you, tell someone about it. Share your 4th Day experiences to GAEC4thDay@austinemmaus.org, and courtesy copy bod@austinemmaus.org so we can begin gathering 4th Day stories to share on our website and newsletter. Kristen Hampsten has shared hers on page 5 of this issue. We want to hear your stories. We want to hear why Emmaus means something to you. As we host another "Best Walk Ever" in November, I will be in prayer for us as a Community, that we become bold about sharing our stories about what the Walk to Emmaus has meant to us when the opportunity presents itself. **Tell your story!**

De Colores!
Rob Turk, GAEC Lay Director



Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

Lay Director

Rob Turk

LayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr.

SpiritualDirector@austinemmaus.org

Assistant Lay Director

Kristin Hampstead

AssistantLayDirector@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Gathering Support

Steven Scott

[BM4GatheringSupport](mailto:BM4GatheringSupport@austinemmaus.org)

@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Walk Support

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BM4WalkSupport@austinemmaus.org

Board Member for Member Services

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Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

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Music Coordinator

Rob Turk

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WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org



BOARD MEMBERS



Financial Statement as of 8/18/18

Bank Balance
\$28,586.21

Scholarships are available by request for participation on a Walk. Applications can be found on the GAEC website, below:

Visit the Greater Austin
Emmaus Community
website at

<http://www.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!



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

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

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

Join us for the September Gathering and Potluck
Dinner at Covenant UMC on September 8th!
Come early for the Agape Making Workshop at
4:00. Don't miss the fun, fellowship, and food!

Check out the Gathering schedule on the last
page so you don't miss the next one!

2018 Austin Community Sponsored Emmaus Walks

Women's Walk #143

Chris McKemie, Lay Director
Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director
Gina Franklin, Board Rep.
Myles McKemie, ST Coord.

November 15 – 18, 2018

Contact: Chris@austinemmaus.org

CYJ, Wimberley

Contact: Gina@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Myles@austinemmaus.org

Agape sign-up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4ea9a92fa0ff2-walk>

Prayer Vigil sign-up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fabae29a0ff2-prayer>

Looking ahead to 2019...

Men's Walk #145

Arnie Waden, Lay Director

April 11 – 14, 2019

Contact: Arnie@austinemmaus.org

CYJ, Wimberley

Women's Walk #146

Brenda Hightower, Lay Director

November 14 – 17, 2019

Contact: Brenda@austinemmaus.org

CYJ, Wimberely



Note from Women's Walk #143 Lay Director

The third team meeting for Women's Walk #143 was held at Lake Travis UMC on August 18th. There have been 11 talks previewed, and the team continues to prepare for the Walk in November. Our Lord continues to bless this Walk with His guidance and His Grace and we are comforted with His presence.

Our community is blessing this Walk with their prayers and their support. Many have already signed up on the Prayer Vigil and the Agape list, and I pray that both will be completely filled by November. The greatest blessing is the sponsorship of 32 pilgrims. We pray that soon, this Walk will be filled with 36 pilgrims.

Being a Lay Director of a Walk is an amazing, blessed spiritual journey, and I am very grateful, humbled, and blessed to be the Lay Director for Women's Walk #143. I am grateful for all of you and blessed to have all of you with me on this journey.

Blessings,
Chris McKemie
Lay Director Women's Walk #143



Women's Walk #143 is a GO!

Women's Walk #143, November 12-15 with Lay Director Chris McKemie, has THIRTY– TWO pilgrims!

There is still room for 4 more to make a total of 36. Let's fill this Walk up! Be in prayer about who you think is ready to take their Walk to Emmaus, and sponsor them!

This Walk still needs AGAPE! Sign-up here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4ea9a92fa0ff2-walk>

We also need the PRAYER VIGIL full. Sign-up here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4FABAE29A0FF2-prayer>

The November 3rd Gathering at Lake Travis UMC will feature the commissioning for this awesome, all-star team. Let's have a huge turn-out to show our love and appreciation for them!

**TEAM
AWESOME**

Very Important Note From Your Editor

This



Database Help Needed!

We are looking for people to help rebuild our database and to add to our social media footprint. If you have skills in these areas, we would like to hear your input. We need your help to make this project a success. If interested, please send an email to:

upperroomsupport@austinemmaus.org

The first meeting date, time, and place will be emailed back to you and also printed in the *WalkTalk*.

De Colores!
Mel Chambers
Upper Room Support

The *WalkTalk* Needs YOU!

The *WalkTalk* needs your help to keep it informative, interesting, and enjoyable to read. Please send your . . .

- ⇒ Emmaus information
- ⇒ Chrysalis information
- ⇒ Kairos information
- ⇒ upcoming events
- ⇒ articles
- ⇒ personal reflections
- ⇒ 4th Day experiences
- ⇒ GAEC service opportunities/needs
- ⇒ Walk info
- ⇒ Team info
- ⇒ Gathering info



. . . you get the idea! Anything you think the community needs to know, would be helpful to know, or would enjoy reading.



Music Coordinator Still Needed!

Do you love singing music at Gatherings? Do you enjoy coordinating with host churches and Emmaus points-of-contact to ensure that there is singing at each Gathering?

If so, we still need a Music Coordinator for the Greater Austin Emmaus Community! If you are feeling called to serve our community in this way, please contact Rob Turk at BM4MemberServices@austinemmaus.org for more information.



Walk #143 Needs Agape and Prayers!

Many have already signed up on the Prayer Vigil and Agape list for Women's Walk #143. But there are still openings!

Remember how much fun it was when you received agape on your pilgrim Walk? That first pillow agape was a great surprise! Then it happened again at breakfast the next morning, and *again* when you sat at your tables! You couldn't wait to see what the next one was! And when you realized that people you didn't even know had been working lovingly on these special little gifts for months, you felt so loved. Well, now it's time for you to give those gifts of love to new pilgrims! Sign up here!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4ea9a92fa0ff2-walk>

Also remember that a Walk cannot take place until the Prayer Vigil is complete. Sign up here!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fabac29a0ff2-prayer>

The pilgrims will be overwhelmed that they have been covered in prayer the entire 72 hours of their Walk!



Team Selection for Men's Walk #145 April 11-14, 2019

Team selection for Men's Walk #145 will be Monday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the lower auditorium of Wesley UMC, 1164 San Bernard Street, Austin, 78702.

If you would like to be considered for this team, go to the link below and fill out the form.

http://austinemmaus.org/team_app.php

Fourth Day Corner

This is a new section of our newsletter where we invite the community to share a 4th Day story. Please email your article to gaec4thday@austinemmaus.org. We will all be blessed by your sharing!

What has God been doing in my most recent fourth days? I have had quite a few fourth days since my walk. I attended Walk #629 in February 1998 at Cathedral Oaks. "Ironically" it was the same Walk the Fourth Day speaker at our July Gathering, Geri Gambino, attended. What a sweet surprise that was! I'm blessed by the nuggets of connections that God surprises me with at Gatherings. It always tends to be a Gathering when it's not as convenient for me to go to, but I go anyway. It's as if God says, "See what you would have missed?"

Some of you may know that I am a breast cancer survivor of six years. My disease was advanced and thus involved chemo, radiation, and nine surgeries. At the time, my kids were three and one years old. My devoted husband was a gracious and tireless care giver and practically a single parent through the whole ordeal. No way could I ever live up to the role he played for our family and me. I'm not patient enough!

As I write this, I'm sitting in the hospital with my husband after he has had major back surgery and in the worst pain of his life. Our kids are now ten and seven years old. I'm daunted by the care giving task ahead of me. I can't do anything but sit by and watch him writhing in pain and barely able to walk. What will it look like when we get home? How will we adjust our lifestyles to help him not suffer and to recover? Will life be normal again soon or so long from now that we don't remember what normal is? But the Lord has answered prayers so much for us already. The surgery so far has been very successful, and it was not an easy surgery. There have been complications, but I know he will be okay by the assurance of the Holy Spirit.

The last sermon I heard from Pastor Stella was about how Jesus didn't run and hide in His suffering, but invited us to watch Him suffer. Just as He wants us to invite Him into our suffering. The message was followed by the song, "Thy Will Be Done," which brought me to tears as I was looking forward knowingly about to enter into this trial. God revealed to me through me panicking the week before over a false-alarm-lice-scare that I was clearly not leaning into Him. It was a welcome wake-up-call.

Now we are in the trial and looking for what God has for us in it. God is giving me the opportunity to love on my husband the way he loved me through my ordeal. God has provided a wonderful network of friends and family who are coming alongside of us through these difficult weeks. God is speaking to me words of encouragement when I pray and through the words of loving friends.

I pray that in this particular 4th day, I will be open to leaning into the Holy Spirit to support and guide me to be His humble servant as a care-taking wife and mother. I pray that this experience would instill a more daily dependence on the Holy Spirit in all things, not just the big things.

De Colores!
Kristin Hampsten
GAEC Assistant Lay Director



Clergy Corner

Community clergy, would you like to write an article to share with the Greater Austin Emmaus Community? It can be as long or as short as you would like, and on any topic of your choice. Just send your musings to:

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

We will all be blessed by your words of wisdom!



AGAPE!!!

DO YOU REMEMBER when you went back to your cabin on Friday afternoon and found something on your pillow? Or when there was something left in your spot at the table in the conference room, or on your placemat at dinner? Do you remember thinking, “who would leave this for me?” or “why would someone give me.....?”

Now you are in your 4th Days, and you know that the small “mementos” of your Walk to Emmaus were gifts of Agape love from the pilgrims who did their own Walk before you. Some people started calling them Angel droppings.

Agape Love – the Greek word *agape* is often translated “love” in the New Testament. The essence of agape love is goodwill, benevolence, and willful delight in the object of love. Agape love involves faithfulness, commitment, and an act of the will. And those gifts that were on your pillow or table were there by an act of will, faithfulness, and commitment on the part of an unknown person who loved you because you were a part of our Christian Community, and you were stepping out in faith for a totally uncharted 72 hours. The map was there...you just didn’t know how to read it yet.

Now it is your turn to continue the Agape Love. Are you creative, artsy/crafty? Or like me...can’t create so I copy others’ creations? Do you see things in a store and think that would be a cool idea for Agape? Are you quick to think of a catchy phrase to go with a piece of candy or a safety pin? We need your hands, your ideas, your commitment, and your love. The pilgrims need to know that they are loved with true Agape Love by the Greater Austin Emmaus Community.

At our Gathering on Saturday, September 8th, we will have an Agape making party at Covenant UMC from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (Potluck dinner will begin at 5:30, then worship at 6:30). Bring supplies, ideas, and willing hands to create and make Agape as we show our love for the new pilgrims of Walk #143. There will be some supplies and tools available, as there are scrapbookers and crafters in our community. Don’t have any supplies? Come anyway and help others! Just come – open hearts and willing hands are all that is necessary as we share the bounty of God’s love with each other!

De Colores!

Jeanne Randall

Walk Support and Gift Agape Coordinator



Greater Austin Emmaus Reunion Groups

Looking for a reunion group?
Want to add a new group?
Need to update info on an existing group?

Go to the link below to do all of this.

http://austinemmaus.org/reunion_groups.php



Upper Room Emmaus Ministries

If you would like to receive email from The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries, please go to this link.

<https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1728792/1367415/>



Next Gathering!
Saturday, September 8th
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Rd.
Austin, 78727

Agape Making Workshop at 4:00
Potluck at 5:30
Worship at 6:30

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2018
Northwest Hills UMC

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m., by Lay Director Rob Turk, who opened with a prayer and presided over the meeting. The following directors were present: Rob Turk, Lay Director; Kristin Hampsten, Assistant Lay Director (C); Jeanne Randall, Board Member for Walk Support, Food/Gift Agape Coordinator, and Prayer Vigil Coordinator (C); Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative (C); Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coordinator; Harold Sundbeck, Board Member for Walk Support, Community Letters, and Acting Secretary; Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr., Spiritual Director; LeeLeen Sundbeck, Immediate Past Lay Director. Absent were: Chris McKemie, Lay Director, Women's Walk #143 (*non-voting*); Arnie Waden, Lay Director, Men's Walk #145 (*non-voting*); and Brenda Hightower, Lay Director, Women's Walk #146 (*non-voting*). C = present by Call-in.

QUORUM: It was determined that 6 directors were present with 3 by Call-in, which did constitute a quorum.

MINUTES: The Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on July 12, 2018. The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and corrections discussed. LeeLeen Sundbeck made the motion to approve the minutes and Steven Scott seconded. The motion passed.

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:

TREASURER'S REPORT – Patti made a motion that the approvals for financial reports that were submitted by email, but not formally voted on, be approved. The motion was seconded by Steven Scott and the motion passed. Patti reported the current checking account balance of the General Fund is \$26,453.71. Patti reported 16 Pilgrims for Walk #143.

UPPER ROOM REPORT – Mel Chambers reported: 1) he has not completed plans with Twin Lakes YMCA; 2) Team Selection was scheduled for August 6, 2018 but will be moved to August 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Covenant UMC; 3) CYJ will hold their price at \$185 for 2019 Walks; we will charge \$195; 4) Tisha and Mel met with the community development group to discuss redo of the Walk Master database. Another meeting will take place in the near future.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR – Pastor Chase asked the Board to set guidelines for Sponsor's Hour in regard to serving communion. Rob made the motion for the Board to encourage future Lay Directors to provide communion during Sponsor's Hour. Harold seconded the motion. Motion passed.

WALK SUPPORT – Harold reminded the Board that the next Gathering will be an Agape Party. Jeanne will bring craft items and Harold said he would also bring craft items. Jeanne will write an article for the *WalkTalk* about making Agape. Jeanne will send out a draft of the article next week. Steven, Harold, and Jeanne will coordinate for the Gathering.

GATHERING SUPPORT – Steven discussed having Walk Reunions at the Gatherings. He will send out emails to announce upcoming Walk Reunions at our Gatherings. For November Gathering he will try to set some up. The September Gathering will be at Covenant UMC, possibly Morgan Scher may be the 4th Day speaker. Possibly Wesley UMC or Bethany UMC for January Gathering.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Software meeting
- By-laws follow-up. Rob will talk to Tisha for updating the by-laws.
- Rob asked Board members to submit articles for the *WalkTalk*. They need to be submitted to Kellye Noret by the 20th of each month.

NEW BUSINESS – Rob presented to the Board a change in position for Jeanne Randall to become the Board Member for Walk Support, with Harold Sundbeck taking over as Acting Secretary. Steven Scott made the motion for the swapping of positions. LeeLeen Sundbeck seconded the motion. Jeanne Randall will serve the final year of her three-year Board position, with the option of renewing the position next June for another three-year term. Harold Sundbeck will serve as Secretary until June and then decide on the future of serving. After discussion, motion passed.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 p.m.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Harold Sundbeck.





Greater Austin Emmaus Community

GAEC GATHERING

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road
Austin, TX 78727
4:00 – Agape Making Party
5:30 – Pot Luck Dinner
6:30 – Music and Worship

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

4TH Day Please Bring:
Last Name: A – G: Main Dishes
H – M: Desserts
N – Z: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

Child care is available for ages 5 and under with reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, September 5th.

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567

ssarch@verizon.net

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Training Workshop at 4:00, Potluck dinner at 5:30, music and worship at 6:30

September 8, 2018

Saturday, September 8, 2018
Covenant UMC
4410 Duval Road, Austin, 78727
Agape Making Workshop at 4:00pm
Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm
Music and Worship at 6:30pm
4th Day Speaker TBD

November 3, 2018

Saturday, November 3, 2018
Lake Travis UMC
1502 North RM 620, Austin, 78734
Serving on a Team and
Board Positions Training at 4:00pm
Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm
Music and Worship at 6:30pm
Commissioning of Women's Walk #143
4th Day Speaker TBD



**Don't forget to bring a dish or some
snacks to share for the
potluck before each Gathering!**

Yum!



POTLUCK DINNER

WalkTalk Deadline

Please remember that the deadline to submit articles and information to the *WalkTalk* is the 20th of each month. This is a firm deadline. Articles and info received after the 20th will be printed only if space is available. Thank you for helping me ensure that the *WalkTalk* is produced in a timely manner!

Kellye Noret
WalkTalk Editor

*DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!*

Agape Making Workshop at September Gathering!

The next GAEC Gathering will be September 8th at Covenant UMC. We will again meet at 4pm for a training workshop, and this one is going to be particularly fun – **Agape making!**

So, bring your agape materials and ideas to share. We will have fun making pillow and table agape for upcoming Walks. After the workshop, we will enjoy potluck dinner at 5:30, and worship at 6:30.

