



## The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



May 2018

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 29, Number 5

### CHANGES

To quote the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, “the only constant in life is change”, and as I reported in last month’s *WalkTalk* letter, changes are about to take place for our Greater Austin Emmaus Community.

But first, we had our Men’s Walk #144 this month, and we’ll celebrate these new pilgrims at their Welcome Back at our May Gathering, which will take place on Saturday May 5, 2018 at Northwest Hills UMC. The Welcome Back will begin at 4:00, followed by a potluck dinner at 5:30, and the music and service beginning at 6:30.

The next change will take place at the May Gathering when we will be voting on our slate of new officers serving on our Board of Directors. The nominees that have been put forward at the last two Gatherings include Rob Turk moving up to Lay Director for our community, Kristin Hampsten as Assistant Lay Director, Tisha Christopher as Member Support, and Steve Scott as Gathering Support. These members will assume their new positions in June and at that time I will move into the position of Immediate Past Lay Director.



Now for the other changes taking place: we will not have a Gathering in June but will next meet on July 14th at Cedar Creek UMC. As I reported in last month’s *WalkTalk*, the Board has decided that trying to continue holding our Gatherings on Thursday nights has become too difficult for our members. We have seen a steady fall off in attendance, with the major complaint being the traffic in Austin. So we will hold our Gatherings every other month on the first Saturday of the month, on the odd numbered months – July, September, November, January, March and May. The Gatherings will begin at 5:30 with a potluck dinner, with music and service to follow. We will also be offering training: How to be a Sponsor, Serving on a Team, and Board Positions. By having our Gatherings on Saturdays you will be able to put it in your calendar, prepare your favorite recipe, and have the time to travel to our Gathering location.

Just a reminder, we also have our Women’s Walk #143 scheduled on November 15-18, 2018. The team is formed and they will be having their first team meeting soon. We need to be in prayer for God’s guidance in leading pilgrims to this Walk. If you know of any potential pilgrims, please encourage them to participate, offer to sponsor them or have your Group Reunion offer to sponsor them so you all may share in bringing a new pilgrim to our community.

Remember, Christ is Counting on You!

**De Colores!**  
**LeeLeen Sundbeck**  
**GAEC Lay Director**



# Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

## Lay Director

LeeLeen Sundbeck

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

## Spiritual Director

Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr.

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

## Assistant Lay Director

Rob Turk

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

## Board Member for Gathering Support

Steven Scott

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## Board Member for Walk Support

Harold Sundbeck

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## Board Member for Member Services

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## Treasurer

Patti Bizzell

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## Upper Room Support

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## Immediate Past Lay Director

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## Registrar

Myles McKemie

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## Secretary

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open

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## Prayer Vigil Coordinator

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## Community Letters

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## Food/Gift Agape Coordinator

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## Music Coordinator

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## WalkTalk Editor

Kellye Noret

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



## Financial Statement as of 4/18/18

**Bank Balance**  
**\$23,637.14**

**Scholarship Fund**  
**\$683.50**

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 wonderful opportunity to bring awareness to the Walk to Emmaus!



## The WalkTalk deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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

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

The April 5<sup>th</sup> Gathering was at First UMC  
Pflugerville, with 71 in attendance,  
and Paula Hue giving an inspiring 4<sup>th</sup> Day Talk!

Check out the Gathering schedule on the last page. They are normally the first Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted. Childcare available.

## 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

CYJ, Wimberley

Contact: [Chris@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Chris@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Gina@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Gina@austinemmaus.org)

Contact: [Myles@austinemmaus.org](mailto:Myles@austinemmaus.org)



### 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](mailto:upperroomsupport@austinemmaus.org)

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

**DeColores!**

**Mel Chambers**

**Upper Room Support**



**Next Gathering**  
**Saturday, May 5**  
**Northwest Hills UMC**  
**7050 Village Center Drive**  
**Austin, 78731**

**Welcome Back Men's Walk #144 at 4:00**  
**Potluck Dinner at 5:30**  
**Music and Worship at 6:30**

### Women's Walk #143 November 15-18, 2018

Now that Men's Walk #144 is over, it's time to begin planning ahead to Women's Walk #143, November 15-18. The team has already been preparing and having team meetings. Now is the time for US to be in preparation. Here are some ways we can do this:

- ⇒ Pray for the team.
- ⇒ Pray for prospective pilgrims, especially for those who you think might be ready to further their spiritual journey by attending a Walk to Emmaus.
- ⇒ Offer to be a sponsor.
- ⇒ Begin thinking about agape you or your reunion group can provide. Remember, no individual names can go on the agape, only the name of the reunion group and/or the church.
- ⇒ Bring awareness of this Walk to your church. If your church has an Emmaus yahoo group, or a list of folks who have been on a Walk, encourage them also to be in prayer, and for who they might want to approach and offer to be their sponsor.
- ⇒ Ask your pastor to say a brief word from the pulpit, and refer them to someone who can give them more information about it.
- ⇒ Have available between services a table or an area with Walk to Emmaus information, and someone there to explain it and answer questions.

These are just a few of the things we can do to promote this Walk!



## **Welcome Back New Pilgrims!**

**Men's Walk #144**

**April 19-22, 2018**

**Camp Young Judea**

Justin Bauer  
Charlie Bright  
Mike Carmagnola  
Buck Cole  
Wesley Craig  
Ernie Cruz  
Sam Elizondo  
Britt Farr  
Bryan Hohenstein  
Scotty Holman  
Kenny Kant  
Jeff McDermott  
Lucas McLane  
Tim McNutt  
Chris Milner  
Austin Nimocks  
Billy Pippin  
Brian Ragle  
Bobby Saddler  
Ross Scher  
Frank Weidner  
Chris West



## **Welcome New Pilgrims!**

Come celebrate our new pilgrims from Men's Walk #144 at our May Gathering on Saturday, May 5th at 4:00pm (*see Lay Director article on front page of this issue that explains new Gathering schedule*).

Let's give them a warm welcome to the Greater Austin Emmaus Community!



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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**April 5, 2018**  
**First UMC Pflugerville**

The following directors were present: LeeLeen Sundbeck, Lay Director; Rob Turk, Assistant Lay Director; Jeanne Randall, Secretary; Patti Bizzell, Treasurer; Mel Chambers, Upper Room Representative; Kristin Hampsten, Member Services Coor.; Steven Scott, Gathering Support Coor.; Harold Sundbeck, Walk Support Coor. and Immediate Past Lay Director.; Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr., Spiritual Director; Coe Croce, LD – Men’s Walk #144 (*non-voting*); Chris McKemie, LD – Women’s Walk #143 (*non-voting*).

**QUORUM:** It was determined that 8 Directors were present, which did constitute a quorum. Our guests were Myles McKemie and Roxie Greenway.

**MINUTES** – The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were sent by email for the previous meeting held on March 1, 2018. The minutes were approved by email and the emails are filed with the minutes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Mel moved that the Treasurer’s report be accepted as presented by email. Rob seconded the motion and the motion passed. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes.

Patti confirmed that the Franchise Tax form has been filed. She also stated that the credit card has been received. Patti made a motion for the Board to approve two pilgrim scholarships, one at \$210 and one at \$140. Harold seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**UPPER ROOM REPORT** –Mel passed out the Directors Manuals, and they were signed for by each. The manuals are set up so that they can be passed on to the next person taking the Board position. He presented the bill for paper, books, etc. for the manuals and supplies for the Walk. Mel has the 2019 dates for the Walks. Men’s Walk #145 will be April 4 – 7, 2019, with Arnie Waden as Lay Director, and Women’s Walk #146 will be November 14 – 17, 2019, with Brenda Hightower as Lay Director.

**GATHERING SUPPORT** – Steven will work on updating the Reunion Group contact list. The May “Welcome Back” Gathering for Men’s Walk #144 will be held at Northwest Hills UMC at 4:00pm, followed by potluck at 5:30, and music and worship at 6:30.

**WALK SUPPORT** – The trailer was straightened and inventoried on March 4.

**MEMBER SUPPORT** – Kristen is still researching the best method for communicating with the GAEC community.

**ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR REPORT** – We are still searching for someone to take over as Music Coordinator for the Community.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A committee will be formed to establish a data management process (DMP) that meets the needs of the GAEC that preserves the confidentiality and privacy of members, pilgrims, sponsors, vendors, etc.

A policies and procedures manual needs to be created so that when new people join the Board they are aware of the duties, time lines of commitments, etc.

A new date and time for Board meetings (between the Gatherings) needs to be established.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Leeleen and Harold did a site visit at the Twin Lakes Retreat facility for the possible move for future Walks. They were impressed with the facility and recommended that we move to that campus for all future Walks. The price would be locked in at \$110 per person for the weekend, including food and lodging for the next three years. A Board visit to the site was scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>. If we are satisfied with the site, Mel will attempt to get out of the current contract with CYJ for the November Walk.

**WALK #143 REPORT** – Chris reported that everything is going smoothly towards Women’s Walk #143.

**WALK #144 REPORT** – Team Consecration will be at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Gathering. Roxie (STC) suggested having maps sent to all POC’s and at the Sponsors Hour and Candlelight, as road construction is making the access to CYJ a bit complicated. She will also need extra people directing traffic after Candlelight. Wide vehicles may need to go to the back gate.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:00 p.m., a motion was made by that the meeting be adjourned.

*Minutes taken and submitted by Jeanne Randall*





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## Reflections on Sponsoring a Pilgrim

Last weekend the GAEC successfully completed Men's Walk to Emmaus #144. After many consecutive Walks of being involved as a team member, this Walk and life presented me with the opportunity and privilege to sponsor a pilgrim on the weekend.

Last August I was hired by a gentleman who became a friend to me, and over time we found out that we had things in common such as both being members of UMC churches, both being dads, and both having a passion for prison ministry. When I served on a Kairos weekend last winter, he was enthusiastic about participating with me or helping, but I had to explain to him that in order to serve on a Kairos team one has to first experience a Walk to Emmaus or similar 3-day spiritual weekend. As luck would have it, that opportunity for him came in the form of Men's Walk #144.

I tried to follow the Sponsor guidelines and prepare my pilgrim for the weekend to the best of my abilities, neither intentionally spoiling any surprises nor making it out to be more than it might be. I shared some of my personal experiences with Walks where various "miracles" occurred, usually involving revelations of God's grace in peoples' lives. I wouldn't call it a "hard sell", per se, but I did make it out to be a chance to spend 72 hours in God's company with 60 or so of your new best friends. He agreed to participate.

I reached out for letters. Everything was going well until a crisis occurred in my pilgrim's professional career, and he was no longer a co-worker. Add to this the uncertainty of whether or not the Walk would even occur, and it got to be a little bit worrisome for me as a Sponsor. I'm sure everyone who has sponsored a pilgrim has thought that the walk HAS to happen; that rescheduling it just will not work. We hear frequently that Walks happen at the "right time" and that if it doesn't work out one time, it can and surely will work out at a later time. But with this trauma we all experienced, it seemed important to me that this Walk "make" and I was very happy when it did. I was even happier when my pilgrim told me he had found another job and better yet, his new manager was enthusiastic about him missing his first Friday at his new job to participate in this Walk.

On the Thursday the Walk began I picked him up to go to the Walk. On the way, I tried to think of last minute stuff to say that might help him enjoy the weekend. We stopped off for the traditional pre-Walk meal of Tex-Mex food at Flores Mexican Restaurant, just east of Dripping Springs. We ran into my friend Gary Johnson and his two pilgrims from my former church, Northwest Hills UMC. The five of us dined together and discussed the weekend, and said hi to various Emmaus people who were also stopping there on the way to Camp Young Judaea.

Once there, we were greeted warmly by numerous smiling faces and my pilgrim immediately felt welcomed, valued, and included. Before we parted, he was very excited and upbeat about what was happening. I had explained that at a certain point there would be a roll call and everyone who wasn't called by name would be leaving, but that I would see him later in the weekend, but most importantly... do...not...anticipate...

The Sponsor's Hour was held in the CYJ Lodge in the Chapel area set up between the pilgrims and team members rooms. Sponsors are welcome to participate in this worship service where the pilgrim's candle is lit for the first time, and we pray over their lanyards. Also, you bring \$5 cash to pay for the pilgrim's 4th Day book, and you may take the time to inscribe a message to your pilgrim in these books. Then we all celebrated Holy Communion, presided over by the GAEC Spiritual Director Rev. Sylvester E. Chase. It was truly a blessed time.

Sponsors also participate at Candlelight by praying over their pilgrim's lanyard a second time, and ensuring that they have the minimum number of letters (11). Candlelight is always a blessed time because you get to see your pilgrim for a few moments, but then file past them and leave them to their Examination of Conscience, in silence. It always seems like the looks on everyone's faces at these ceremonies are heavenly joy, and a foretaste of what awaits us all in heaven.

My pilgrim had a special need on Sunday to be in Round Rock at 5pm, so unfortunately we were not able to participate in the Closing. But this is always a good time. Here, the pilgrims are first welcomed into the Greater Austin Emmaus Community as the Walk comes to a close. It is important for the Community to be there so they see the extent of the community they are joining.



*Continued on page 7*

The Sponsor has follow-up obligations and responsibilities as well, not just to get the pilgrim safely home, but also to talk them through the normal “coming down from the mountain” experience of returning to “normal life” after they’ve spent 72 hours with Christ. Some important ways we can help the pilgrim maintain that “Emmaus high” include:

1. Ensuring they get in a reunion group. Invite them to yours. If they find another one, check with them and hold them accountable that they’re going regularly.
2. Ensuring they attend Gatherings. Offer to drive them if necessary. Encourage them to attend, and just as importantly, show them the Gatherings matter by attending ourselves.
3. If they are interested, help them volunteer to serve on future Walks. Explain the sign-up process, and explain what you know about serving on teams.
4. Finally, if they are really interested, and there’s a good fit, encourage them to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors.

These four areas are ways that Emmaus offers for people to remain connected and active in the Community. If you have questions about any of this, contact your church’s Point of Contact or an Emmaus Board member for more information.

Thank you for sponsoring a pilgrim on a Walk to Emmaus. This entire movement would not exist if people were not willing to do so. Keep your eyes open for new men and women in your life that might benefit from The Walk to Emmaus, and listen to the Spirit and ask them to go when the time is right.

Sponsoring a pilgrim is a blessing and a privilege, but it’s also a big responsibility. I hope that my pilgrim continues to grow in the likeness of Christ and will be a spark that ignites many passions in many hearts in future days. I will be proud to stand with him, and serve Our Lord as brothers.

**De Colores!**  
**Rob Turk**  
**GAEC Assistant Lay Director**



### **FROM THE MARBLE-AND-MAHOGANY-DECORATED OFFICE OF THE MUSIC COORDINATOR**

I would like to take a moment to explain what the function of the GAEC Music Coordinator role actually is. No, it’s not all groupies and standing ovations. The GAEC Music Coordinator is the person in the community who ensures that Community events like Gatherings or other worship services, such as Candlelight, have appropriate musicians present to help lead the group in singing together. Most of the time it is identifying a need, and then finding people who answer the call to meet that need.

The job has recently been made 50% easier by us moving to an every-other-month Gathering schedule. However, one does not technically have to be a musician to handle the coordination between the GAEC Board and the Point of Contact at the various churches. It does help if you know musicians though. Speaking of, if you are new to the Community and willing to participate in worship music, please drop us a line at [MusicCoordinator@austinemmaus.org](mailto:MusicCoordinator@austinemmaus.org) so we know you're willing to do so.

As a side note, I am about to become the Lay Director of the Community for June 2018 - May 2019, and it would help me GREATLY (get it?) if we could find someone to handle this important community function for the next year. Please consider stepping up and stepping out in faith to help in this area. You won't be alone.

Also, as an additional side note, if you are at a Gathering or other Emmaus venue and someone is in front of you attempting to lead the group in singing, please sing, and save the conversations for another time. It's difficult enough to get volunteers to stand up and lead us in singing without people being straight up distracting and rude while they are trying to get folks singing. Thanks in advance,

**Rob Turk**  
**Music Coordinator**





*Greater Austin Emmaus Community*

## GAEC GATHERING

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Northwest Hills UMC  
7050 Village Center Drive  
Austin, TX 78731

4:00 – Welcome Back meeting for Walk # 144

5:30 – Pot Luck Dinner

6:30 – Music and Worship

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

4<sup>TH</sup> Day Please Bring:

A – G: Desserts

H – M: Appetizers, Salads, Side Dishes

N – Z: Main Dishes

Child care is available for ages 5 and under with  
reservations by 2 PM Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please contact Steven Scott @ 281-460-5567

[ssarch@verizon.net](mailto:ssarch@verizon.net)



# Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Potluck Dinner at 5:30, Music & Worship at 6:30

## May 5, 2018

Saturday, May 5, 2018  
Northwest Hills UMC  
7050 Village Center, Dr., Austin, 78731  
Welcome Back at 4pm for Walk #144  
Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm  
Music and Worship at 6:30  
4th Day Speaker TBD

## July 14, 2018

Saturday, July 14, 2018  
Cedar Creek UMC  
5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek, 78612  
Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm  
Music and Worship at 6:30pm  
4th Day Speaker TBD

## September 8, 2018

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

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

**Yum!**

Last Name : A - G: Desserts  
H - M: Appetizers, Salads, & Side Dishes  
N - Z: Main Dishes



POTLUCK DINNER



Emmaus Gatherings