

The Dialogue



Quarterly Newsletter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community of the Austin Diocese

February 2005

AUSTIN ME CIRCLES "COOK" WITH NEW WEEKEND REUNION IDEA

by Laura & Michael Cowan and Jan & Bill Taylor

Think back again to your original ME Weekend, and you may remember the invitation to come to a weekend reunion. Usually one to two weeks after the weekend, it was an opportunity for all the newly encountered couples to get together once more, and to experience their first 'circle.' This was typically a circle with members of the presenting teams. One thing we noticed at these reunions was the power of the stories we were hearing - how the lives of these couples had been so dramatically changed. Over the years, many of these stories literally gave us goosebumps, and some brought tears. What a wonderful reminder of how the Holy Spirit is working all the time in so many lives.

Recently, the Austin ME community "cooked up" something new by combining the weekend reunion with a regular monthly circle meeting hosted by an Austin area circle. The Round Rock and Pflugerville ME Circles, already planning to gather together on the second Saturday in November at the home of Charlie and Mary Copeland in North Austin, were excited to be the pilot-host group for the November circle/weekend reunion.

Thus, all encountered couples from the November weekend were invited to attend their first ME circle/weekend reunion. The couples had been told on the weekend that other ME couples were out there waiting for them, couples with similar values



The reunion for the November weekend was hosted by the Round Rock and Pflugerville circle groups. The Happy Cookers (Wayne & Sam Miller) and the Presenting Team (Bill & Jan Taylor, Fr. Joe Abah, Mary & Charlie Copeland, and Mark & Nell Reinberg) encouraged all couples to attend the reunion circle meeting.

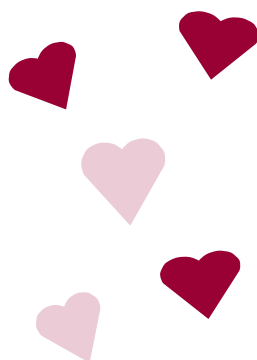
on the importance of marriage. As they timidly entered the Copeland's home, their hesitant, reserved expressions were quickly replaced by looks of comfort when they met the community of already-encountered couples. And it must have been an inspiration hearing the sharing of the community couples, some of whom have, for decades, had Circle as a staple in their lives to feed their relationship. Each newly encountered couple was surrounded by the blanket of comfort and friends we call community.

But the inspiration was by no means one-sided, as the Circle group was blessed by the sweet excitement and sharing of the new couples. It is not often that one is privileged to hear stories of how lives are dramatically changed. And we expect that, hearing these stories, more than one Circle couple left that evening with a feeling of being blessed, and perhaps with a desire to guide a friend towards the gift of a weekend.

The April Reunion will be hosted by the Westlake Circle on April 9th. If your circle is interested in welcoming newly encountered couples by hosting a Reunion Circle, please contact Raul or Dora Gonzalez (rpiegonzo1@aol.com or 512-280-1002).

Contents

New Weekend Reunion Format	1
The Millers Make a Move/ME Calendar	2
In Memoriam/Familiar Faces	3
Circle Contacts	4



THE MILLERS HEAD OUT TO SAN ANTONIO

After many years and countless hours of devoted and loving service to the Central Texas ME Ministry, our community waved good-bye to Wayne and Sam Miller as they headed south to relocate to the San Antonio Marriage Encounter neighborhood. Looking back with love, tears, sincere gratitude and much silliness, we recall the...



TOP TEN reasons we are forever-grateful for the Millers...

- #10 The ME Jewelry! We could always count on the latest in ME accessories from Mrs. Miller.
- #9 Pulpit Talk - "King and Queen"... the emotional tear called to so many couples!
- #8 Circle groupies! Circle hosts always placed the welcome mat out for the Millers to join the evening's festivities.
- #7 The Grandkids stories, proud grandparents, they are!
- #6 "We attended our first ME weekend in 1984; ...
- #5 ...We attended our second ME weekend in 1992;...
- #4 ...We finally got it right in '99! on our third ME weekend... there's no turning back now for us."
- #3 "...this beautiful lady is my heart and soul"... *the constant display of love!!*
- #2 No weekend was complete without the song, the bubbles, and the unbelievable scrumptious eats they provided to so many.. with so much love... and with soooo many kitchen hours logged. You made it look all too easy!
- #1 The Database! We LOVE the Database!

Thank you again Wayne & Sam; we are grateful that when the Holy Spirit called you to this ministry; you gave a resounding YES!! God bless you both always!!

Consider being a prayer couple during a Marriage Encounter Weekend for one of the attending couples. If you are interested, please contact Mark and Nell Reinberg (979-693-4808 or markandnell@cox.net).

UPCOMING MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EVENTS

April 1-3: ME Weekend, Sheraton (I-35), Austin, TX.

April 9: weekend reunion, Westlake Circle hosts, 7pm, at Jon and Hilary Olson, all invited (holson@sjnaustin.org)

June 17-19: ME Weekend, Cedar-brake Retreat Center, Belton, TX.

June 25 weekend reunion, South Austin Circle hosts, 7pm, at Raul and Dora Gonzalez, all invited (rpiegonzo1@aol.com)

August 5-7: ME Weekend, Cedar-brake Retreat Center, Belton, TX.

November 4-6: ME Weekend, Cedar-brake Retreat Center, Belton, TX.

July 8-10 Marriage Encounter Convention in Towson, Maryland (<http://convention.wwme.org/>)

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Wknd	2 Wknd
3 Wknd	4	5	6	7	8	9 Reun
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

...And the two of them become one body.

-Genesis 2:24

IN MEMORIAM

As a community, we are saddened with a sense of great loss, as we mourn the passing of David Hickey. David was called to heaven on Dec. 24, 2004 when he suffered a sudden heart attack.

David and his wife, Dorinda are a long-time Marriage Encounter couple active in the Round Rock/Pflugerville Circles for the last 4 years. Some ongoing ME folks may remember the Hickeys from being active in the south Austin circle back in the 90's when they were first living in the Austin area. In recent years, they participated in the LaGrange circle with their dear friends, Louis and Mary Frerich from Smithville. The Hickeys stayed very active in Engaged Encounter also, where they were instrumental in the successful 2004 Engaged Encounter 11-state regional convention held here in Austin.

Since his graduation from Mississippi State University in 1986, David was employed by Motorola/FreeScale in Austin (TX), Huntsville (AL), and Boise (ID).

David and Dorinda enjoyed annual vacations to various locations, and David honored many of his

friends with his woodworking gifts. He created many woodcarving originals and enjoyed sharing his talent with others.

Survivors include his wife, Dorinda Ann; sons, David Patrick and Terrence Corey; mother Claudine of Columbus, Mississippi; sisters, Cathy Weathers of Dallas, Carolyn Barnett of Chesapeake, Virginia; and Kurtis Hickey of Columbus, Mississippi. He is preceded in death by his son, Christopher Casey Hickey.

His friends and family say that David was one of the gentlest souls you could ever meet. He had a quiet wisdom and grace that made all those around him feel welcomed and loved. We will miss his gentle smile, his stories and the values and honesty he taught those around him.

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



FAMILIAR MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FACES

by Laura Cowan

We're checking in with two very familiar couples that so many encountered couples recognize from their hours of service to this ministry.

Jim & Miriam Ortiz are doing just fine and dandy they report from their home in Temple, Texas. Marian's health concerns from last year are well in-check; and on most days you may find them both working on their beautiful lawn and garden and enjoying the beautiful outdoors. This year will hold a special event for them, as their beloved Erin will be married.

Our favorite Caldwell ranchers, Nathan & Mary Ausley hosted the Annual ME Christmas party at their country home in December. The ME community celebrated the sun-filled day with a potluck brunch and the traditional hayride and caroling session. Both Ausleys keep busy with church activities, focusing on high school ministries and keeping up with Nathan's folks.

These two beautiful couples continue to display the blessings of our sacrament.

John 15:9-12 As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.



Jim and Miriam Ortiz (foreground) and Nathan & Mary Ausley enjoying a little fresh air.

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
5455 Bee Cave Rd.
Austin, Texas 78746

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Community of the Austin Diocese



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 2585

Newsletter contacts at
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
Editors: Hilary and Jon Olson
Phone: 512-328-3220 x109
Fax: 512-328-3226
Email: holson@sjnaustin.org

Mission Statement: Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist Couples and Priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

Austin Diocese Marriage Encounter Circle Information:

West Austin/Cedar Park: Matt Kerwick and Lynne Kammer

7805 Harvestman Cove, Austin 78731 ph: 512-527-8178
email: lynne@visionaryresearch.com
Meets 3rd Friday of every month.

Austin South: Raul and Dora Gonzalez

10511 River Plantation Dr., Austin, TX 78747 ph: 512-280-1002
email: rpiegonzo1@aol.com
Meets various times.

Austin Westlake Hills: Barry and Kathleen Meyer

11800 Lake Stone Drive, Austin, TX 78738 ph: 512-402-0740
email: barry@meyerbox.com, kathleen@meyerbox.com
Second Saturday every month, 7:00pm.

Caldwell: Nathan and Mary Ausley

5760 CR 324, Caldwell, TX 77836 ph: 979-535-4867
email: nmausley@tconline.net
Meets various times.

College Station: Randy and Irene Light

2100 Bent Oak, College Station, TX 77845 ph: 979-693-1931
email: light@brain-doc.com
Meets bi-monthly.

LaGrange: Louis and Mary Frerich

1002 Nink Road, Smithville, TX 78957 ph: 512-369-5127
Meets various times.

Pflugerville: Michael and Laura Cowan

2205 Callaway Garden Court, Pflugerville, TX 78660 ph: 512-251-6797
email: lauraanncowan@hotmail.com
Meets 2nd Saturday of every month.

Round Rock: Marcos and Marie Palacios

1109 North Riviera Circle, Cedar Park, TX 78613 ph: 512-918-1931
email: marcospalacios@yahoo.com, mariepalacios@yahoo.com
Second Friday every month, 7:30pm.

San Marcos: Michael and Renee Furtado

PO box 1733, San Marcos, TX 78667 ph: 512-396-3620
email: mfurtado@grandecom.net
Meets various times.

Temple/Killeen: Jim and Miriam Ortiz

710 Livingston Ct., Temple, TX 76502 ph: 254-780-3116
email: Anjell7107@aol.com
Meets various times.

Waco: Jim and Anna Fitzpatrick

3812 Austin Avenue, Waco, TX 76710-7344 ph: 254-753-2745
email: jafitzp@msn.com
Meets various times.

West: Eddie and Charlotte Klaus

2575 Brickyard Rd., West, TX 76591 ph: 254-826-5604
email: eddieklaus@aol.com
Meets various times.