

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter September 2026

Coming Events

Men's walk #114- September 24-27th 2026

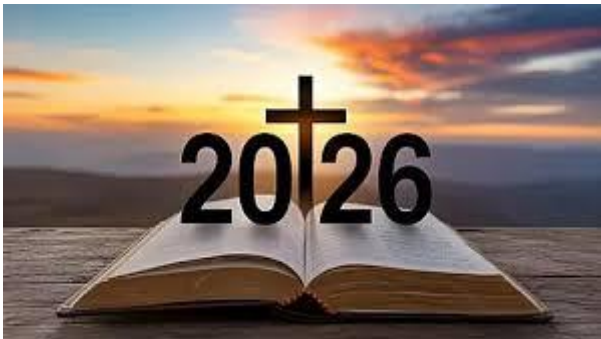
Camp Gilmont, Glimer Tx. Drop off at 7:00 pm.

Candle Light Men's Walk #114-September 26th, Camp Gilmont, Gilmer Tx. Gates open at 7:30pm. Gathering starts at 8 PM.

Women's walk #115- October 1-4th 2026

Camp Gilmont, Glimer Tx. Drop off at 7:00 pm.

Candle Light Women's Walk #115-October 3rd, Camp Gilmont, Gilmer Tx. Gates open at 7:30pm. Gathering starts at 8 PM.



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Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:

www.GRACEEmmaus.com

Pilgrim's application

<https://www.graceemmaus.com/pages/applications/pilgrim-application>

Team Application

<https://www.graceemmaus.com/pages/applications/team-application>

Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear Emmaus Family,

We will be gathering for the Men's walk at the end of this month, Saturday, September 26, at 7:30, at Camp Gilmont, just outside Gilmer. The Women's walk will be the following Saturday, October 3. This candlelight will be the best one ever, please come and attend for the pilgrims on these walks.

We had a good attendance at Athens Methodist in August at our gathering. We were greeted by the church 4thdayers and their pastor, Chris Harrison. We always appreciate the musicians who help us with our worship service, as well as the pastors who participate in serving communion.

As I write this, I am praying for our men, and women's teams who will be leading these fall walks. If you haven't already, please sign up on the prayer vigil to pray for these walks, teams, and pilgrims. God is blessing us with pilgrims, just the right ones for these walks!

My husband and I will be busy making agape this next week in preparation for the fall walks. I hope you will be also. Our next gathering will be Saturday, October 17, at Marvin Methodist church, in Tyler, our potluck lunch is at noon followed by worship at 1:00 pm. Please come and encourage your new 4th dayers to join us.

I am so Excited to see you at the Candlelight's in Gilmer, TX. It is one of my Greatest pleasures, to see your shining faces holding candles for the pilgrims to see. Please make every effort to be at camp Gilmont.

You will see our candidates for new board positions in this newsletter. Please read the bios and be prepared to vote at the candlelight or at the October gathering. We have a terrific line up, and you may have a tough time making decisions. Please thank Paul Breedlove for all the work and effort he has put into gathering these candidates.

We have been concerned about finances which help us pay for facilities and events. Our walks are not completely covered by our pilgrims and teams' fees. But we have had generous donors step up and cover those expenses in the past, and they are still doing so now. Thank you for all you do in keeping this ministry moving forward.

Blessings to all of you- Debbie Hayes, Community Lay Director

What Will We Leave Behind?

Dolly Parton died this week and lately, I've been thinking about life and legacy. Maybe it's because the older I get, the more I realize how quickly the years pass. We spend so much of our lives thinking about what we are going to do next. But eventually another question becomes just as important:

What am I leaving behind?

I don't mean possessions, accomplishments, or whether people remember my name. I mean the difference my life made in someone else's walk with Christ.

When I think about Emmaus, I realize how much of my own faith journey was shaped by people who simply said yes.

Someone said yes to serving.

Someone prayed.

Someone made agape.

Someone encouraged me.

Someone showed me the love of Christ when I needed to see it.

Some of them probably have no idea how much their "yes" mattered.

That's legacy.

Our Walk to Emmaus may have lasted three days, but our Fourth Day lasts a lifetime. And every day we get another opportunity to influence someone coming behind us.

Maybe that's the question worth asking ourselves:

Will someone know Jesus better because they knew me?

We don't need a platform or a title to leave a legacy. We just need to be faithful with the people God puts in our path.

Love generously. Pray boldly. Encourage often. Serve when nobody is watching. And keep saying yes when God gives you an opportunity to make a difference.

Because someday, the positions we hold will belong to someone else. But the seeds we planted can keep growing long after we are gone.

May our legacy be a trail of people walking closer to Jesus because, for a little while, our paths crossed.

De Colores!

Charlene Burton

GRACE Emmaus Registrar

The Team is Ready... Are the Pilgrims?

What an exciting time for our Emmaus Community!

All **three Team Training sessions have now been completed**, and I can tell you—we have **two awesome teams** preparing to serve on our upcoming Fall Walks. God has brought together men and women who have prayed, prepared, trained, and committed themselves to serving the Pilgrims He will send our way.

Now we need the **Emmaus Community** to do its part.

There is **still time** to sponsor a Pilgrim for one of our Fall Walks—but the time to act is **NOW!**

Men's Walk: September 24–27

Women's Walk: October 1–4

Think about your **circle of influence**—your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, church family, and others God has placed in your life.

Is there someone who could benefit from stepping away from the busyness and pressures of everyday life for a few days to experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ in a powerful way? Someone encouraged **you** to attend your Walk. Someone prayed for you. Someone believed the experience might strengthen your relationship with Christ.

Now it may be your turn to do that for someone else.

Sponsorship begins with prayer. Ask God to place someone on your heart. Then don't wait for the "perfect opportunity." **Pick up the phone. Have the conversation. Extend the invitation.**

The Teams are trained.

The Community is praying.

The Walks are almost here.

Now we need Pilgrims!

There is still time—but **you need to do it now!**

Who is God placing in **your circle of influence** that you can invite?

Let Your Light Shine!

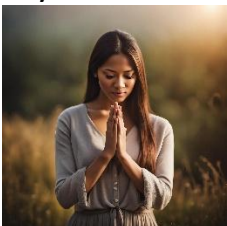
De Colores,

John Webb

Lay Director Walk # 114

Donna Sustaire

Lay Director Walk # 115



Where a Cup of Coffee Led-By Randy Simpkins

Sometimes the most life-changing moments begin in the most ordinary places.

For me, it started with a cup of coffee.

In 2022, I thought I knew exactly where God was leading me. I had stepped away to hike the Appalachian Trail and had even declined an invitation to serve as Head Spiritual Director for a Walk to Emmaus because I expected to be on the trail. But life shifted. A storm, responsibilities at home, and the quiet prompting of the Holy Spirit led me back. Soon, I found myself serving on that Walk instead.

Early one morning at the retreat, I walked into the kitchen for coffee. On the other side of a swinging door, I overheard three women praying for someone willing to donate a kidney to a family member in desperate need. As I listened, I realized I had the blood type they were praying for.

I stepped around the wall and simply said, "I'm O positive."

I had no idea what that simple response would lead to.

Months of testing followed. Doctors repeatedly told us that a direct match was incredibly unlikely. Yet against overwhelming odds, I turned out to be a perfect match for Russell, the husband they had been praying for. The transplant was successful, and Russell was given a new chance at life.

Looking back, I can see that Emmaus had been preparing me long before that morning in the kitchen.

-An Article from eNews from Emmaus Ministries.



Election of New G.R.A.C.E Emmaus Board Members

Hello Fellow Fourth Day'ers! Summer is almost over, and the promise of cooler weather is upon us, thankfully! May this Autumn be a blessing to us all. The time is also upon us to consider G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus board member positions. Our Board of Directors consists of 15 lay members, who serve 3-year terms, with 5 members rotating off the Board every year. The five positions to be filled are very valuable for our future leadership, and there is a lot of work to be done.

The candidates up for election have provided a brief personal profile (see below) for us to better get to know them. We are tasked with administering wholeheartedly to this ministry and this responsibility is not taken lightly. We continually, without fail, see God work in the lives of His people in so many ways through the Walk to Emmaus. Therefore, your vote is important to this process.

Community members will have multiple opportunities to vote once: at either of the Walk's Candlelight gatherings, at the Grand Ultras Gathering on Oct 17, or by using the mail-in ballot below. We will total the votes during the October 17th gathering.

His kingdom come, His will be done!

Paul Breedlove

Assistant Community Lay Director

Clip this ballot out and mail it in!

Ballot for election of the GRACE Emmaus Community Board Members for the 2027-2029 term	
Please circle your 5 choices clearly.	Tori Beekman
If you are unable to attend one of the Gatherings, mail this ballot to:	Bill Clem
Mail to:	Gary Dievendorf
GRACE Emaus Community	
c/o Paul Breedlove	Kathy Pruitt
1216 E Dulse	
Tyler, Texas 75701	Liz Webb
It must be received on or before Oct 16.	Caleb White

2026 GRACE Emmaus Board Candidates

Tori Beekman

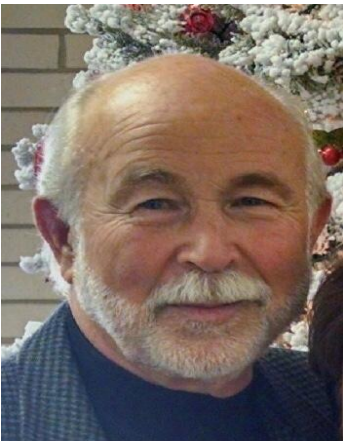


Hi my name is Tori Beekman. I attended Grace Emmaus walk 107 at Camp Gilmont. I sat at the table of Esther. My husband and I worship and serve at New Hope Baptist Church in Ore City.

I have been blessed to serve on every Walk since attending my Walk. I have served on the chapel team as well as the chapel lead. I have also served in the conference room as an assistant table lead and table lead. I look forward to serving on the outside team next.

I know how attending the Walk changed my life and have seen it in others. I am fully committed to the principles and purpose of Walk to Emmaus movement and would appreciate the opportunity to serve on our Community's Board of Directors. -Tori

Bill Clem



My name is Bill Clem. I went on my Emmaus Walk on October 13, 1991, Walk #23, Central Texas Community, Granbury, Texas and I sat at the table of St Matthew. My wife, Rhydonia Clem and I serve and worship at Henry's Chapel Methodist Church, Troup, Texas. I serve the church as a Lay Leader, Conference Delegate, Board Member, and I am a CLM (Certified Lay Minister). As an Emmaus member for the last 35 years, and 20 of those years, and 20 of those years as a member of the GRACE Emmaus Community. I have had the opportunity to work and serve on several teams, both inside and outside. This fall's Walk #114, I am working as an Assistant Table Leader. As an Emmaus Board Member Candidate, I would be honored to serve on the GRACE Board and I thank you for this opportunity. DeColores, Bill Clem

Gary Dievendorf



Greetings, my name is Gary Dievendorf and I went on G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus walk number 106 at camp Gilmont, in Gilmer Texas. I sat at the table of Matthew and my wife, and I worship at the Global Methodist Church in New Summerfield Texas. I was blessed to serve as an Assistant Table Leader on walks 108 and 112 at Disciples Crossing in Athens Texas. I am currently blessed to serve as the table leader for walk 114 and Camp Gilmont at the end of September.

God's blessings to be involved with G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus has been overwhelming for me, and I wish to seek more of it. My prayer is I can be a blessing to others as the G.R.A.C.E. family has been to me and glorify God in my feeble way. I would love to serve this family of believers in any way possible. Thank you for your consideration. - Gary

Kathy Pruitt



I am Kathy Pruitt. I have been involved in the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus community for several years. My walk was G.R.A.C.E. Walk 41 at Disciples Crossing in 2007, I sat at the table of Ruth. I worship and serve at St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church in Mineola. Holy Ghost Headquarters of East Texas.

I have worked numerous walks over the years. I am working the walk coming up this fall 115. I was the Lay Director for Walk 109 at Disciples Crossing. I believe that God is calling me to get more involved in the Emmaus community. I enjoy studying God's Word, encouraging those around me, and finding ways to make a positive difference both in church and my community. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve on the Grace Emmaus Board and looking forward to supporting the ministry as it encourages others to deepen their relationship with Christ and live out their faith in everyday life.

DeColores
Kathy Pruitt

Liz Webb



My name is Liz Webb. I attended GRACE Walk #87 in 2018. I served Emmaus faithfully since that time and last served as GRACE Walk 107 Lay Director. Emmaus changed my life and was a renewal in my relationship with the Lord. 1 Peter 4:10 tell us that we have, "...each received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the grace of God." I have a passion for what God can do in others through Emmaus. I have been blessed to witness God working on each Walk I have served. I would be honored and tremendously blessed to serve on the GRACE Board of Directors and use the gifts God has bestowed upon me for the benefit of the GRACE Community. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Liz Webb

Caleb White



My name is Caleb White, I went on walk 104 at Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX and sat at the table of Peter. I did not know what I was getting into, I just trusted my mentor to say yes, and I am so thankful that I did! What a beautiful community of believers, what an honor to serve and worship with you guys, it feels like a slice of Heaven each time. Through Emmaus Jesus has brought healing in my life and I've seen the same in the other pilgrims as I've served as ATL three times (I think) and TL at the last walk. I'd be honored to serve on the board. - Caleb White

GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2026

Lay Director

Debbie Hays
dhays55@yahoo.com
903-452-5331

Assistant Lay Director

Paul Breedlove
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903-352-2840

Exoficio Lay Director

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Dove Name Tags

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Community Trainer

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Webmaster

Brian Walker
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Ministry Manager Data Admin

Martha Walker
marthasgarden55@gmail.com
903-235-0158

Help Make Room for One More “Yes”

As the Fall Walks approach, your generosity can help ensure that cost never stands between a pilgrim and an encounter with Christ.

As our Men’s and Women’s Fall Walks draw near, much of our community is already at work. Teams are preparing, sponsors are praying, and countless details are coming together to welcome the pilgrims God is calling.

From a Treasurer’s perspective, I see another side of that preparation: every place at the table is made possible by generosity. Registration fees help cover the cost of lodging, meals, materials, and the many practical needs of a Walk weekend. But the true cost is greater than the amount we ask a pilgrim or team member to pay. Community gifts bridge that difference and help us keep the Walk accessible.

Sometimes the most important gift is even more personal—a scholarship that helps a pilgrim say “yes.”

SPONSOR A PILGRIM. OPEN A DOOR.

A potential pilgrim may be ready for the experience but uncertain about the cost. A full or partial sponsorship can remove that obstacle. You may choose to give in honor of the person who sponsored you, as a reunion group, with your church, or simply as a quiet act of faith. A gift does not have to cover an entire registration to matter. Several smaller gifts can come together to provide one scholarship. Every contribution also supports the shared expenses that make the weekend possible for everyone.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

— 1 Peter 4:10

WHAT YOUR GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

Your generosity becomes a welcoming bed, a meal shared around the table, a book placed in a pilgrim’s hands, and sacred time set apart to listen for God. It creates room for someone to experience the love of Christ through prayer, worship, service, and community.

If God has placed someone on your heart, begin with prayer and thoughtful sponsorship. If you are able, consider helping with that person’s fee or giving to the scholarship fund so another sponsor can extend the invitation without finances becoming a barrier.

Give online through Tithe.ly at graceemmaus.com/pages/donate. Checks may be made payable to either Tyler Emmaus Community or GRACE Emmaus and mailed to P.O. Box 132212, Tyler, TX 75713- 2212, or brought to any monthly gathering.

Thank you for making room at the table—for the pilgrims arriving this fall and for those still waiting for someone to invite them.

De Colores!

Blake Burton, GRACE community Treasurer

SUPPORT THE G.R.A.C.E. EMMAUS COMMUNITY!

The **G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community** wishes to continue to spread the life-changing experience that an Emmaus weekend can bring. Won't you help us by donating funds for scholarships for both Pilgrims and team members, or to the general fund of our community? We will happily accept donations of any amount and apply them to helping more Pilgrims strengthen their relationship with Christ!

There are multiple ways you can give:

1. You can give online via **our website** by visiting <https://www.graceemmaus.com/pages/donate> and using the giving form there:

A screenshot of the online giving interface for the Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus. At the top, it says "Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus". Below that is a large display showing "\$ 0.00". Underneath is a dropdown menu currently set to "Fund: General Fund". Below the dropdown is a button that says "+ Add Another Gift". At the bottom, there are five buttons for donation frequency: "One Time" (which is highlighted), "Weekly", "Bi-weekly", "1st & 15th", and "Monthly".

2. You can give via direct ACH out of your bank account or mail us a check. To send in a check, or to begin a monthly ACH, either send the check or the information below to:

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community, PO Box 132212, Tyler TX 75713 -----

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Email

address: _____

Bank Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Account #:

_____ Routing #:

_____ -----

For any questions, feel free to reach out to Blake Burton, Treasurer:

clogguy82@yahoo.com or 832-835-4692