

# Grace For Today

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G.R.A.C.E. Website  
[www.gracemmaus.org](http://www.gracemmaus.org)

## Inside this Issue

1

Love Notes from Our  
Community Lay  
Director

2

From Our Spiritual  
Director  
The Reason  
Walk Schedules

3

Grace Board

4

Bank Draft

Men's Walk #60  
Disciples Crossing  
March 15-18, 2012

Women's Walk #61  
Disciples Crossing  
April 19-22, 2012

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## DEAR

### G.R.A.C.E.,

#### Love Notes from the Community Lay Director - November 2011

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Community and the Board for allowing me the Blessing of serving you as Community Lay Director for 2011. I have learned a great deal. (Yes, more mature folks can learn new things). I have said many times, one of the pleasures of serving the Emmaus Community is that it contains a large concentration of folks who not only want to serve the Lord but actually do serve the Lord. It is an amazing group with a mission that is as meaningful as it gets. On my Walk, just as many of you did, I found what the love of God really is. I was able to continue to experience that love through service with this wonderful group of people. They actually put up with me, most of the time, and they didn't get paid for it either.

My sincere congratulations to the newly elected Board members for 2012-2014. Each of these folks bring unique skills and talents to Board service.

C J Cox - Grace 52

Carol DeRieux – Grace 29

Kayla Hamm - Grace 55

David McPherson - Grace 3

Pat Moser – Grace 54

The most important lesson I could share with this new group is that it is NOT about you. This is not a place to draw attention to yourself. Board members and volunteers in the Emmaus movement serve as anonymous volunteers with no thought of credit or honor. As the Emmaus Handbook reminds us, leadership in the Emmaus movement cannot be earned but rather it is learned.

Walk 59 was in fact the “Best Walk Ever”. The team, under the direction of Cindy Hooser, provided a wonderful Emmaus experience for the pilgrims on this Walk. Anyone who attended Candlelight and/or closing

knows that the Holy Spirit was at work.

A few reminders:

If you received a wooden cross on your Walk and would like to have a pewter cross instead, you may make arrangements to be presented with a new cross at a future Gathering. Let one of the Board Members know and they can make the arrangements.

Please remember to print extra copies of the Newsletter for non-e-mail community members. Since we discontinued hardcopy printing the only access to the Newsletter is via the web site or community e-mail.

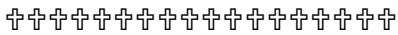
Speaking of e-mail...If you change your e-mail address you will drop off the community e-mail list and will stop receiving the Newsletter as well as other Community notices. It is easy to delete old e-mail addresses and add new ones by going to the web site. To add a new e-mail address, go to the right side of the web page and click on “Join Our Community Prayer/ Praise Group” . Follow the prompts.(This is not used for routine prayer requests) To delete an e-mail address, go to the right side of the page and click on “Remove me from the Mailing List” Follow the prompts.

It is not too early to start submitting pilgrim applications for spring or fall. Walk 59 filled up very early. It is not too early to start praying for Walks 60 and 61.

Finally—The Board is discussing the balance of the Community concerning being “Walk Driven” vs. being “Fourth Day Driven”. It seems clear that our Community like many others is “Walk Driven”. However, we all know that the “rubber meets the road” during our fourth day. That is when the pressures of the world begin to creep in and we really need to have the support of fellow pilgrims. I have a sense that the Board is going to be exploring how we can provide more help and assistance to reunion groups and other fourth day activities. If you have some ideas, send them along to one or more Board Members.

All the best for a meaningful and safe Christmas Holiday.

DeColores            Burton I. Love



FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Several years ago, the time came to get ready for the Christmas Eve service. The garland and wreaths were fluffed, the bows straightened, and the pews polished. Everything was going well until it came time to unpack those little candles that we hold up at the end of Christmas Eve services to sing Silent Night. You know the ones, where you get wax on your hand, your neighbor's hand or on the pew cushions. Yes, those are the one. Much to the horror of the folk doing all the preparations, we discovered too late that all those candles had been stored in the attic. You can imagine what they looked like after a Texas summer in a church attic. There wasn't a straight one in the whole bunch. It was too late to get new ones and we had to use the old, crooked, turned all kind of ways candles.

Somewhere in the service, it came to me that these were a great representation of what Christmas was all about. There are our lives (not a perfect one among us) and there is the Light of Christ. The wonderful thing is that bent, worn out, melted candles still look beautiful in the glow of that light. So I am thankful for the Light of Christ. I am thankful for the opportunity for all of us to be used by God to share the Light of His Love with the world around us.

So from one turned all kind of ways candle to all my brother and sister candles, - Merry Christmas. May we shine today and every day in the Light of our Savior, yes, Christ the Lord.

With Hope and Joy in Christ,

Ricky Ricks



*For Unto Us a Child Born...*



*...Unto Us a Child is Given*



THE REASON

Luke 2:1-20

Christ Born of Mary

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, <sup>1</sup> who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Glory in the Highest

<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

<sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.



LAY DIRECTORS FOR UPCOMING WALKS

Men's Walk #60  
Disciples Crossing  
March 15-18, 2012

Lay Director: **John Norman**

Women's Walk #61  
Disciples Crossing  
April 19-22, 2012

Lay Director: **Kathy Kapka**



**LISTEN, LISTEN, LOVE, LOVE**  
Kairos Outside of East Texas is designed to support females 20 years or older whose life has been impacted by the incarceration of a relative of friend. This is a weekend where these women will get the support from others going through similar life challenges. This weekend is to take place here in the Tyler area. Please come to informational Potluck lunch meeting Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 11:30 am at Grace Community Church on Old Jacksonville. Come out and see what this is all about. Contact Sandee Perdue if you need any more info 903-571-4513.



## GRACE EMMAUS

The G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community wishes to continue to spread the life changing experience that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Won't you help us by donating funds for scholarships for both Pilgrims and team members, or the general fund of our community?

We are asking you to consider donate \$5, \$10, \$25 monthly or whatever amount you would like to set the donation to. This monthly donation will be debited automatically from your bank account on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Thank you for your continued support of our Emmaus community.  
DeColores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_